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THE TIMES

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Election threat angers Tories Retreat or you risk defeat, Major warned

By Philip Webster and Nicholas Wood

THE government was last night considering a significant new retreat over Maastricht after a warning to John Major from senior Conservative MPs that he should back away from a confrontation or risk defeat.

Leaders of the backbench 92 group, the parliamentary party's largest internal faction, urged the prime minister after a sombre meeting last night to hold next week's Commons debate on a technical motion that would enable him to avoid a direct clash with his backbenchers.

Government sources confirmed that ministers were considering such an option and that the cabinet might adopt it on Thursday.

There was deep irritation among Tory MPs and ministers yesterday that Mr Major had raised the stakes so high by allowing the success of the treaty ratification process to be seen as an issue on which he

With eight days to go before the key Commons vote, Tory party managers are searching for a way out of the Maastricht mire. But they may have to act quickly as irritation grows among MPs

might call a general election. But he refused to drop the threat last night.

However, it was evident that senior ministers are considering a compromise to get him through his immediate difficulty, the real prospect of defeat next week on the so-called "paving" debate.

Sir George Gardiner, chairman of the rightwing 92 group, which claims a membership of 110 MPs, saw the chief whip, Richard Ryder, after last night's meeting in a Commons committee room to tell him that the government should abandon its plan to stage next week's debate on the principles of Maastricht. He urged instead a "soft" adjournment motion which, because it would inevitably be seen as a confidence vote, would probably get the government off the hook.

But even this escape route was looking hazardous last night. Labour emphasised that it would vote against the adjournment motion purely because it would be asking MPs to voice confidence in the

said it was a threat that he would not be allowed to put into effect. One senior Tory described it as blackmail. Sir George gave Mr Major an open warning that he might be the chief casualty of the party's disarray over Europe. He said: "John Major must be warned that those urging him to stake his leadership on Maastricht may have an eye on the leadership themselves."

Sir George's words were a reflection of Conservative backbench anxiety that the cabinet is increasingly out of step with the parliamentary party over Europe.

Downing Street sources repeatedly declined the opportunity yesterday to deny that Mr Major intended the threat to be taken seriously. They emphasised instead that Mr Major expected to win and did not want people to speculate about what would happen in the event that he did not. However, they added that Mr Major saw ratification of Maastricht as "absolutely essential to maintaining a sensible foreign policy".

Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, gave a warning of the "dire consequences" for Britain if MPs "wrecked or appeared to wreck" the treaty. He also declined to kill the election threat, telling a Commons committee: "I don't intend to add speculation to speculation but I think everyone is clear that it is a central part of the government's programme and will be presented as such."

Sir Norman Fowler, the Conservative party chairman, came closest to confirming publicly that it was real. He told rebel MPs they were "playing with fire" by opposing the government. It was naive of the rebels to think they could halt the Maastricht bill one day and then support the government in a vote of confidence the next as if it were all "hunky-dory". He declared: "We are talking about Maastricht now, but there could be other issues where the government was defeated. Is there going to be a vote of confidence after each of these? You only have to think it through to see how impossible it would be."

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Cast of 5,000 celebrates Queen's 40th anniversary

By Tim Jones

THE QUEEN last night attended a grand pageant to celebrate the fortieth anniversary of her accession to the throne. The cast of 5,000 who paid her homage included many names from the worlds of opera, theatre, ballet, music and sport.

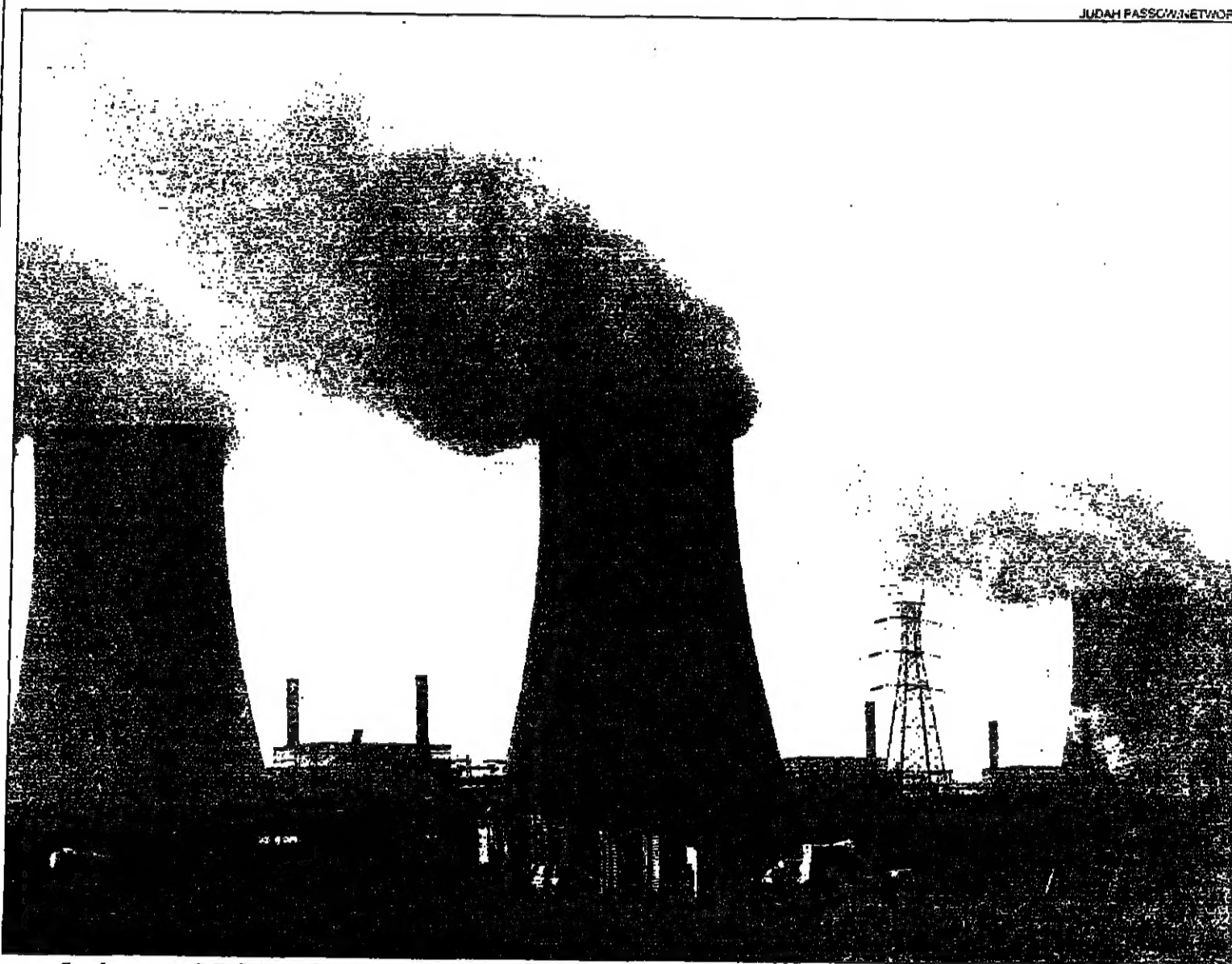
Cilla Black, Dame Vera Lynn, and Lonnie Donegan shared the stage in *The Great Event* at Earls Court with Lord Hunt, who led the expedition that conquered Everest shortly before the coronation in June 1953. Also present in a constantly unfolding story of British success under the Queen's reign, were the 1953 Ashes team, the 1966 World Cup soccer team, Christopher Chataway and Henry Cooper.

One moment, the stage of the huge arena was an ornate

opera house and then it was transformed to a map of the Commonwealth, with motorised stages and orchestra platforms allowing for a rapid change of scene and pace. One star making a rare public appearance was the great gold state coach in which the Queen rode to her coronation, last seen during the Silver Jubilee in 1977.

This year's Royal Variety Performance on December 7 is to be launched by Audrey Hepburn, who recently visited Somalia on behalf of Unicef. The Prince and Princess of Wales are to be principal guests at the show. Those on the bill will include the Spanish soprano Montserrat Caballé, the Nigel Kennedy Ensemble and dancers from the Bolshoi Ballet.

Families seek £10m for daughters of Sellafield



Smoke screen: Sellafield nuclear reprocessing plant in Cumbria, where radiation levels are said to have been under-estimated

Forty more claims could follow genetic link case

By Michael Horsnell

RADIATION levels endured by the workforce at the Sellafield reprocessing plant were grossly under-estimated by British Nuclear Fuels, the High Court was told yesterday.

The allegation was made on the first day of a test case, in which two families are seeking £10 million damages, claiming that their children's cancers were caused by the effects of radiation on their fathers' sperm before the children were conceived.

It is claimed that the children's fathers had been exposed to radiation by working at the plant in Cumbria.

As the case was outlined before Mr Justice French, British Nuclear Fuels was accused of grossly under-estimating the radiation to which its workforce had been exposed. Ben Hytner, QC, for the plaintiffs, told the court of widely conflicting accounts of radiation which the claim-

ants' fathers had received and estimates of radiation at the 42-year-old plant. He told the packed courtroom that in 1955, British Nuclear Fuels claimed that the total amount of uranium oxide which had been discharged was a mere 100 g, but that the figure had been revised by this year to between 12 kg and 20 kg — an increase of at least 120-fold.

The results of a study by Professor Martin Gardner, head of the Medical Research Council environmental

epidemiological unit, were read to the court. They showed a risk of childhood cancer eight times higher in the offspring of fathers employed at the plant than men working elsewhere. Mr Hytner said that a smoke screen would be put up by BNF to cover up the evidence of cancer. Up to 40 other cases depend on the test case, which is expected to last at least six months.

Industry accused, page 3

British Steel cuts output by 20%

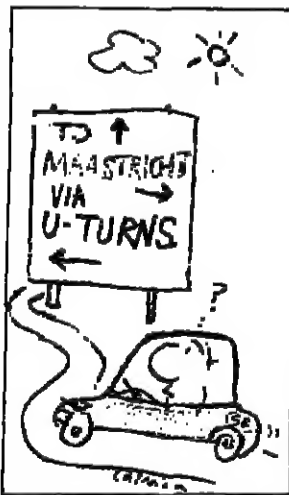
By Ross Tieman

MANY of British Steel's 42,000 workers are to be put on short-term working until the end of the year. Production will be cut by a fifth in response to a worldwide slump in steel demand.

The company plans to review production again in December "in the light of market conditions prevailing at the time". All four of the firm's integrated steel plants, at Teesside, South Wales, Port Talbot and Llanwern, will be affected.

Unions were enraged that British Steel announced the production cut without telling them first. John Weakley, chief steel negotiator for the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union, said: "British Steel is the leanest and fittest steel company in Europe. If not the world. This decision has come as a complete surprise, but underlines the gravity of the slump in manufacturing industry."

Full details, page 21
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government and the Liberal Democrats also made it plain they would vote against for the same reason. John Cunningham, the shadow foreign secretary, said it was wrong to go ahead with the debate while the Danes had not decided how to reverse their referendum vote against the treaty.

Senior ministers voiced deep disquiet yesterday that Mr Major had allowed himself to be boxed in by weekend briefings suggesting that he would go to the country if he lost the Maastricht bill. One described the warning as "silly and petulant" and another

ON OTHER PAGES

Rugby tour in danger

The Rugby Football Union yesterday played down fears that the forthcoming tour of England by South Africa had been threatened by the withdrawal of support by the African National Congress. The ANC offered its support for the stand taken by the National and Olympic Sports Congress (NOSC), which has withdrawn its support from all rugby tours to and from South Africa and from the 1995 World Cup.

South African rugby's failure to implement development schemes in the townships had, the NOSC said, made it necessary to introduce a "corrective measure". The withdrawal of ANC backing may open the way for political protests when the South African tour of England begins on Sunday. Page 40

90 safari staff sacked

Windsor Safari Park made 90 of its 140 staff redundant yesterday after its abrupt closure over the weekend. The remaining staff will continue to care for the animals while the receivers try to sell the park. Page 5

Grappling with the frontline

The first 1,000 British troops assigned to Operation Grapple, codename for Britain's contribution to the United Nations humanitarian relief effort in Bosnia, will be met by a bewildering contrasts. How will they cope with the deadly interethnic warfare all around them? Michael Evans reports. Page 14

Perot accuses Bush of wedding smear

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

ROSS Perot was the centre of a bizarre new controversy yesterday after he accused the Republicans of a dirty tricks campaign that included plans to smear his daughter Carolyn, disrupt her wedding and wiretap his Dallas headquarters.

The charges were vigorously denied by a string of top Bush aides. Martin Fitzwater, the White House press secretary, called the charges "preposterous" and Mr Perot "paranoid", and expressed horror at the thought of such a "crazy man" in the Oval Office.

Some Republican officials privately expressed alarm not that the charges might be true, but that they were so fantastical that the Texan's recent surge might be abruptly reversed. That surge has given the president an outside chance of saving the race.

Mr Perot made the unsubstantiated claims on a Sunday night television programme, saying they were the real reason he had suddenly quit

the presidential race for 11 weeks last July. Most US newspapers yesterday treated the allegations as cranky. Mr Perot angrily attacked the media for the way he had been reported and declared: "I am sick and tired of you all questioning my integrity without a basis for it."

The CNN-USA Today tracking poll yesterday showed Mr Clinton seven points ahead on 39 per cent, with Mr Bush on 32 and Mr Perot on 20. However an AP state-by-state survey showed Mr Clinton comfortably ahead in 27 states and the District of Columbia, which together accounted for 330 electoral college votes, 60 more than required for victory. He led in another eight states with 69 votes, while Mr Bush led in eight with 61 votes. Seven more states were toss-ups, and Mr Perot was ahead in none.

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Family man: Ross Perot with Carolyn at her wedding

VACHERON CONSTANTIN
Geneva, since 1755

Asprey

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Only 31 Tory rebels needed to defeat government in Maastricht debate

By Philip Webster
and Nicholas Wood

THIRTY-ONE Conservative MPs can defeat the government over Maastricht, even if its ranks are swelled by the support of the Liberal Democrats.

As Labour sources confirmed yesterday that the party will vote against the government tomorrow week, the Conservative whips began a desperate effort to ensure that 50 waverers who could hold the fate of the government in their hands are aware of the implications of withholding their support.

To press home their message, the whips will be armed with some simple arithmetic. Without Tory support the Opposition parties could muster 293 votes against the so-called paving motion: 269 Labour MPs, 11 assorted Welsh nationalists, Scottish nationalists and Northern Ireland's Social Democratic and Labour MPs, and the 13 Ulster Unionist MPs.

The government's theoretical tally, discounting any revolt, would be 354, its own voting strength of 334 and 20 Liberal Democrats. If 31 Tory

MPs deserted to vote with the Opposition parties the government's vote would decline to 323, and that of its opponents would go up to 324.

Even allowing for the possibility that not all the Unionists would turn up to vote with Labour, which might be balanced by the fact that not every Liberal Democrat would support the government, the figures demonstrate the high stakes for which John Major is playing.

Ministers admit there is little hope of winning over the 22 diehards who voted against

the second reading of the Maastricht bill. Instead they will be looking at the 50 MPs who did not vote against the government on that occasion, but still felt worried enough about Maastricht to sign the motion calling for a "fresh start" in Britain's relations with the Community tabled after the Danish referendum.

In theory if a dozen or so of them switch sides, Mr Major will be in dire trouble. The rebels claim that almost 30 Tories have indicated they will change sides and vote against the government. The whips

will be using age-old tactics to bring the waverers back on side. Some 24 of the "fresh start" signatories are members of the new intake of Conservative MPs. Although they are proving far more independent than the whips would like, they will be told again that their hopes of ever entering the government will be damaged. MPs in marginal seats will be asked whether they really want to go back on to the hustings in the present economic climate.

Bernard Jenkin, the new MP for Colchester North, is one of those turning against the government. "I regard the business of the debate next week as a separate issue from when we are going to have the next general election," he said. "The issue is about the timing of the reintroduction of the Maastricht bill."

"If we are to spend all that time preoccupied and obsessed with this particular measure, which to businessmen and householders looks increasingly irrelevant to Britain's needs, we will look baroque. My job as an MP is to ask questions that need to be answered about measures that come before the House of Commons."

John Townsend, chairman of the backbench Tory finance committee and MP for Bridlington: Sir George Gardiner, chairman of the right-wing 92 group of Tory backbenchers, and Sir Rhodes Boyson, a former minister, are giving the whips cause for concern.

Mr Townsend said: "I am likely to vote against the government. I am passionately opposed to a United States of Europe, and whatever the prime minister says, the other EC heads of government, particularly Kohl and Mitterrand, consider that Maastricht is another step forward to deeper and closer union leading to a single currency."

"I voted for the government at second reading, but since then three things have happened. The Danes have voted against and I cannot see the need to split the Tory party before the Danes have come to a decision. As of now, the treaty is dead. The French almost voted against. The collapse of the exchange-rate mechanism means that money-

union is not going to be possible in the foreseeable future. As monetary union is one of the most important features of the Maastricht, the thing is as dead as a dodo."

Sir George, who was chairing last night's critical meeting of the 92 group at the Commons, said: "I would certainly expect to vote against the government on Maastricht. I am far short of being a Eurosceptic but I don't believe this is the way the peoples of Europe want to go."

Sir Rhodes said: "I shall probably vote against the government. It's irrelevant to the needs of this country at the present time. Why divide the party and the country unnecessarily?"

However, other fresh start signatories have moved back into the government's camp. David Lidington, MP for Aylesbury, said: "I will be voting for the government. The treaty was always a tactical victory, albeit at the end of a negotiating process we had striven to avoid. The government should now pursue the objective of shaping Europe in Britain's interests and that is best done by rallying the treaty."

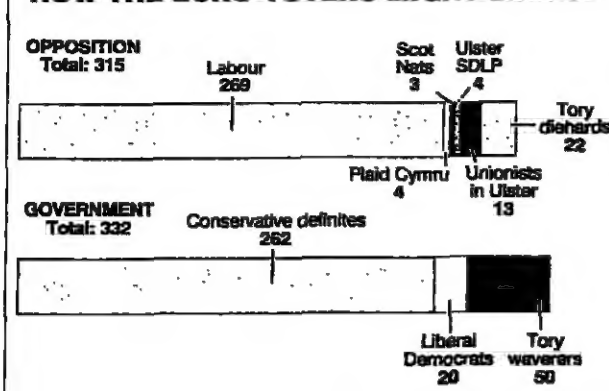
Nigel Evans, the new MP for Ribbles Valley, and John Greenway, MP for Ryedale, are two other potential rebels who have fallen into line.

Mr Evans said: "I will support the government because at the party conference anti-federalism and pro-subjectivity made me feel he was fighting on the same side as the rest of us. The business of decentralising power in the Community was started at the Birmingham summit and will be taken further at Edinburgh. The vast majority of us would not be here if not for John Major and we owe a great debt to him."

Mr Greenway said: "You cannot have it both ways. If you are not happy with the way certain things are going in the Community you must be in there arguing for change."

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HOW THE EURO-VOTERS MIGHT LINE UP



NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS

NEW INTEREST RATES

FOR PERSONAL LENDING

With effect from 27th October, 1992

	Interest rate % monthly	Decreased by % monthly	A.P.R. %
Midland Overdraft Rate	1.50	0.05	19.10
Orchard			
Overdraft	1.50	0.05	19.50
Reserve	1.80	0.05	23.80
Vector			
Overdraft £250-£1,000	1.50	0.05	19.50
Reserve	1.80	0.05	23.80
Meridian			
Overdraft up to £4,999	1.45	0.05	18.80
Overdraft £5,000-£9,999	1.30	0.10	16.70
Overdraft £10,000+	1.20	0.10	15.30
Home Management Account	1.75	0.05	22.50

	Interest rate % p.a.	Decreased by % p.a.	A.P.R. %
HomeOwner Reserve	14.50	0.50	15.20
FlexiLoan	21.60	0.60	23.80

With effect from 1st December, 1992

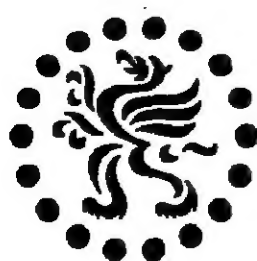
Home Loan Rate	9.25	0.70	9.70
Home Improvement Loan Rates:			
Loans sanctioned before 26.4.89	11.25	0.70	11.60
Loans sanctioned after 26.4.89	9.25	0.70	9.50
Equity Release Loan:			
First Charge	9.25	0.70	9.60
Second Charge	11.25	0.70	12.90
House Mortgage Rate	9.25	0.70	9.50
With effect from 24th November, 1992			
Save & Borrow Account	22.50	0.50	24.40

OTHER ACCOUNTS

With effect from 27th October, 1992

	Net Interest % p.a.	Gross Interest % p.a.	Gross Interest (CAR) % p.a.
Clients Premium Deposit Account			
£25,000	4.44	5.92	6.00
£100,000	4.62	6.16	6.25

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Bulldogs bite the hand that leads

MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

In America, militant groups like the self-styled NWAAs and QWAAs ("Niggers with Attitude" and "Queers with Attitude") shake fists. Now, on British back benches, appears a variation - TWAs: "Tories with Attitude".

This breed, almost extinct, has revived. Fed by Eurosceptical resentment and miners' anger but mostly by the sliminess of the prime minister's majority, your Tory backbencher can smell fear as dogs can. He has seen the terror in the chief whip's eyes, noted the pit's reprieve, anticipated the Jubilee Line rescue. He is emboldened.

Yesterday at transport questions, Tories with Attitude sprouted from every bench. Matthew Carrington (Fulham) wanted a new station on a new Tube line through Fulham. He did not actually say: "You missa my constituency, I smash your face" but the implication was clear.

Taking note, a minister, Steven Norris, almost bowed. John Bowis (Battersea) wondered with menacing courtesy whether this line might extend under the Thames to Battersea. Before he could add "or I'll send the boys round", Norris was on his feet to "take your suggestion on board".

By now other Tories were leaping up and down, no doubt with new Tube lines and stations of their own to propose. Norris was fascinated by each suggestion.

As questions proceeded the prospect grew of a vast new Underground network in London, through which gleaming modern trains conveyed mollified electors to and from brand new Tube stations constructed in the constituencies of every London Tory with Attitude.

The handful of government backbenchers still willing to bow soft tails at their ministers looked uneasy. Might they have sold at too low a price? Your sketch-writer remembers a time, under Mrs you-know-who, when a backbencher would

return to his constituency at weekends to be asked what he had done to help the defensive yesterday by Tory backbenchers, who accused the government of misinformation and nervousness in explaining its European policy. He came under persistent pressure from anti-Maastricht Tory MPs to explain why the government was pushing ahead with plans to ratify the Maastricht treaty before it had Danish support. He also had to defend the government against repeated charges, including one from a fervent pro-European Tory MP, of failing to present its Maastricht arguments effectively.

Mr Hurd faced a 90-minute interrogation over the government's stance on Europe when he gave evidence to the Commons cross-party European legislation select committee. In some techy exchanges with some of the most prominent Tory anti-Maastricht campaigners, he warned committee members of the "serious disadvantages" for Britain and its Community and world influence if "we wrecked, or appeared to wreck, the treaty".

In particular, foreign investors would make a judgment on whether Britain was "fully in Europe or half in and half out". Any suggestions that Britain would wreck the treaty would be "bad for job prospects in this country".

Mr Hurd strongly reaffirmed the government's commitment to ratifying the treaty. "It is not a luxury or a side issue but a central issue ... and will be presented as such."

Even Hugh Dykes, one of the most pro-European Tory MPs, criticised the government for failing to explain its policies to the public, allowing "a vacuum to build up in this country". There appeared to be unnatural reticence and undue nervousness, which was incomprehensible.

The government was accused by Tony Marlow, Tory MP for Northampton North, of "embarking on a massive policy of misinformation". Any assertion that the Maastricht treaty was aimed at decentralising Europe was a misrepresentation of which Goebbels would have been proud.

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Euro rebels put Hurd under pressure

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY

DOUGLAS Hurd, the foreign secretary, was forced on to the defensive yesterday by Tory backbenchers, who accused the government of misinformation and nervousness in explaining its European policy.

He came under persistent pressure from anti-Maastricht Tory MPs to explain why the government was pushing ahead with plans to ratify the Maastricht treaty before it had Danish support. He also had to defend the government against repeated charges, including one from a fervent pro-European Tory MP, of failing to present its Maastricht arguments effectively.

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Feverish rewrite for Westminster farce

"WE'VE still got nine days to go." That plaintive remark last night by a senior member of the government sums up the mess he and his colleagues are in ahead of the Commons debate on European policy on November 4.

A procedurally unnecessary debate, originally promised to lower the temperature after the Danish referendum in June, has turned into a political quagmire from which Downing Street was last night struggling to extricate itself. This has produced uneasily wriggling over the wording of the motion, threats of a general election and further demoralisation among Tory MPs.

This classic Westminster flurry is irrelevant to Britain's real problems, such as the continuing recession, further redundancies, the threatened breakdown of the Galt talks, and the holes in the government's economic policy.

But the possibility of a further government retreat on the wording of the motion, let alone defeat next week, even after a procedurally meaningless debate, would be extremely damaging. It would reinforce the impression that Mr Major has lost the political initiative and is, to use the vivid phrase of Kenneth Clarke, the dog being wagged by the tail of a small but now self-confident band of Tory backbenchers.

The government is caught in an awkward trap. There is probably an underlying majority in the Commons of at least two to one for a pro-European or pro-Maastricht policy (not the same in theory, but in practice similar). But that is offset by the determination of the opposition to exploit the government's unpopularity over pit closures and the economy.

Mr Major's dilemma is that the more he turns the issue into one of confidence in the government, the more certain it is that Labour and the Liberal Democrats will vote against in the lobbies. The Liberal Democrats said last night that, while they would support a motion seen as promoting Britain in Europe, they would oppose an adjournment motion amounting

to a confidence vote. Ministers face the risk of embarrassment, if not defeat, whichever way they look. If ministers have to concede just an adjournment motion, that involves admitting they cannot win a substantive motion on EC policy.

Mr Major himself has a strong case. The Maastricht agreement was endorsed by the Commons last December, featured in the Tory election manifesto and approved by a big majority five months ago. In conversation he comes back again and again to the importance of ratifying the treaty to ensure that Britain retains its influence over EC developments.

But the irreconcilable Eurosceptics are willing to call Mr Major's bluff over the threat of an election. They believe, probably rightly, that if the Maastricht bill is defeated, it would be the end of Mr Major, but not of the government. Many of the hard-core would not be unhappy with that, even if any likely successor was even more pro-EC.

But for all its clumsiness of the past few days and weeks, the government still has more than a week to avoid the Eurosceptic rocks. Some pro-European Labour MPs are worried that the opposition, and not the government, is in danger of running aground. They believe neither the government nor Mr Major will be brought down, but, by appearing to compromise its new-found pro-European policy, Labour will undermine its own credibility.

By PETER RIDDELL
POLITICAL EDITOR

CORRECTION

In our leader of October 24 on the Tomlinson Report we stated that university teaching posts in London "can conveniently be combined with hugely lucrative private practices in Harley Street". We understand that London University permits full-time clinical academic staff to undertake limited and supervised private practice, normally to a maximum of 10 per cent, and that such practice is conducted on the site of their employment, not in Harley Street. A minority of staff have taken up this option.

QC accuses industry of smokescreen over radiation

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

A SMOKESCREEN will be offered by British Nuclear Fuels to cover up evidence of a rash of childhood cancers around the Sellafield nuclear reprocessing plant in Cumbria, the High Court was warned yesterday at the launch of a damages action which will cost an estimated £10 million.

Amid accusations that workers were not told about the radiation doses to which they were exposed, two families were in court for a landmark hearing expected to last six months, while 40 others waited in the wings for a judgment before suing BNFL for compensation. The test case, which has taken up to three years to prepare, involves allegations of personal injury to young people resulting from genetic damage to their fathers working at the plant.

The allegations, denied by BNFL, involve damage to the fathers' sperm through radiation overdoses to which the company adopted a "cautious approach" during a period in which emissions were grossly under-estimated.

In a joint action Elizabeth Reay formerly of Whitehaven, Cumbria, is claiming damages over the death of her daughter, Dorothy, aged 10 months, from leukaemia in 1962. Her damages have been agreed with BNFL at £150,000 but are subject to a ruling by Mr Justice French on liability, for the loss of her daughter and for mental anguish suffered by Mrs Reay and her husband, George, a Sellafield worker who died of cancer in 1987.

The second plaintiff is Vivien Hope, 23, whose father, David, now 68, was a fitter at the plant for more than 20 years. In 1988 she was diagnosed as suffering from non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, a leukaemia-related illness, which after treatment has left her disabled and sterile. Her damages, subject to liability, have been agreed at £125,000.

The company was accused by Ben Hytner QC, counsel for the plaintiffs, of retreating from dose figures in its records over the extent to which Mr Reay and Mr Hope were exposed before their daughters were conceived. Mr Reay was subject to a radiation reading of 709 mSv (millisieverts) and Mr Hope to 294 mSv. Mr Hytner told the court. In their records, however, these were recorded by BNFL as 384 mSv and 160



Bereaved: Mrs Reay (left) and Miss Hope at the start of their damages action

mSv respectively. But the company now accepts their actual readings were 639 mSv and 246 mSv.

Mr Hytner said: "It is not suggested that the defendants were not doing their best to measure doses. It is clear that monitoring facilities were,



Baby Dorothy, died of leukaemia

compared to today, relatively rudimentary. Whether we agree the doses, the fact will remain throughout this case that the defendants do not appear to have taken with as much seriousness as befitted

them the question of the accuracy of the information they were passing on to others about doses. They knew, from their own experts, they had been under-recording doses but they did not inform the workforce. They were cavalier in their approach to the information they gave."

The plaintiffs, who were in court, will have to prove on the balance of probabilities that the illnesses resulted from exposure through the fathers to radiation. More than 50 experts in genetics, epidemiology and radiation damages will give evidence of the cluster of childhood cancers around the controversial plant formerly known as Windscale.

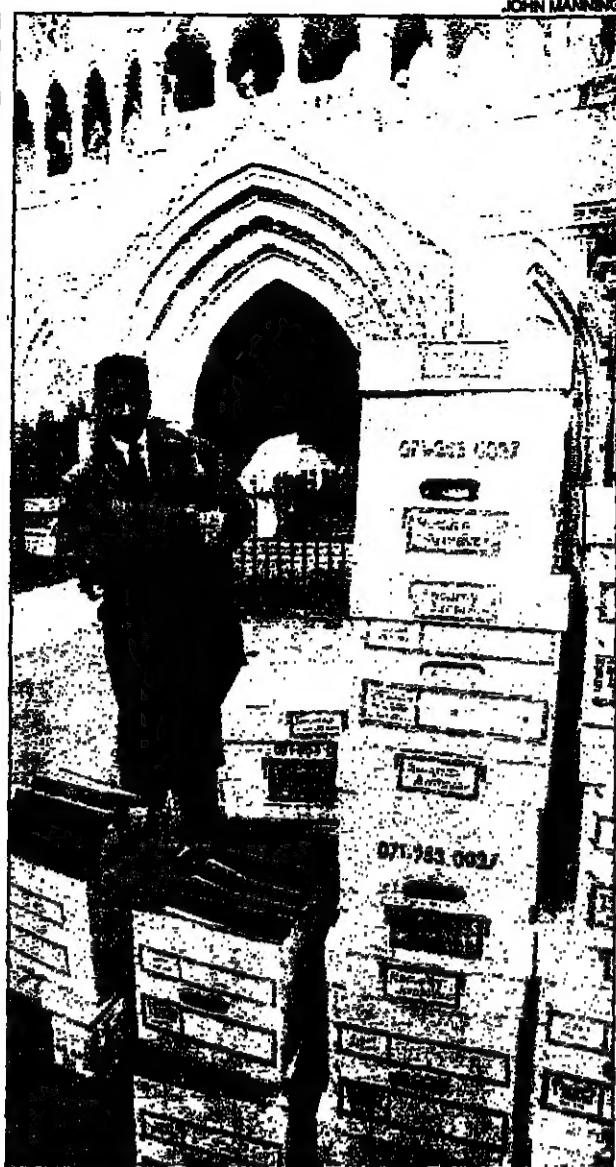
Mr Hytner said the plaintiffs will rely for part of their case on the Gardner report, published two years ago in the *British Medical Journal* by Dr Martin Gardner, the Southampton University epidemiologist, who found that children of Sellafield workers were at least twice as likely to develop leukaemia.

The claims were based on four principle allegations: □ Damage to the fathers' sperm before conception by radiation exposure. □ Exposure to radiation outside the plant but coming from it while babies were still

in the womb. □ Post-natal exposure to radiation. □ Exposure of the mothers to radiation emanating from the plant before conception, causing damage to their eggs.

So far as environmental exposure or families living near the plant was concerned, Mr Hytner said the Gardner report found that excesses of cancers were concentrated on the village of Seascale, two miles from Sellafield, together with a statistical association with workers who had suffered higher doses of radiation.

"Consequently any explanation for the excess other than radiation by one pathway or another must explain away the astonishing coincidence that it was predominantly the fathers with high doses of radiation also resident close to a plant discharging radioactive materials into the atmosphere and the sea whose children were contracting the cancer." No alternative explanation had been proffered by BNFL, which had instead concentrated on mounting a spilling exercise, Mr Hytner said. "Such a spilling exercise will have to produce a smokescreen thick enough to obscure the coincidence of the fathers' doses and proximity to the plant."



Paper weight: some of the half million documents

Trial is likely to be a record breaker

By FRANCES GIBB

THE Sellafield trial is expected to break legal records on a number of fronts. It is expected to be the most expensive and complex civil action the courts have seen, taking six to nine months and running up total costs of £10 million.

The case has involved three years of preparation by teams of lawyers from the two law firms involved: Leigh Day & Co, for the families bringing the two test cases, and Freshfields, for British Nuclear Fuels Limited. Evidence runs to more than

half a million pages of documents, with reports assembled from more than 100 leading scientists from several countries.

Each side in the case is expected to call 25 scientists to give oral evidence.

Legally, the case will test for the first time the concept of genetic damage whether radiation from the plant damaged the sperm of workers, resulting in leukaemia and related illnesses in their children.

Former guards officer is in fine fettle to tackle marathon case

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

MR JUSTICE French, the High Court judge who must decide whether radiation from the Sellafield plant caused leukaemia-related illness in workers' children, faces one of the most arduous judicial jobs in recent years.

Sir Christopher French, 67, a former captain in the Coldstream Guards, will preside over a trial that could last nine months, plunging deeply into technical and scientific evidence, with conflicting views from 50 experts from around the world. For the first time a judge in the civil courts will have a full-time assistant, a barrister, to help keep track of the evidence and manage the trial.

Mr Justice French is a quiet, courteous and hard-working man, and his former Bar colleagues do not doubt that he is up to it. Allan Levy QC said: "He is a very senior, well-respected judge and was a very successful silk. As a person he is a very nice man. You would pick him out as a former guards officer — he is very stiff-backed."

He is also regarded as amply suited to picking out the skein of probability from the mass of evidence. "At the end of the day, the judge has all the up-to-date information from every source which individual experts have not got, and it is his task to put them altogether," Mr Levy said.

The task did not call for assistance by scientists acting as lay assessors. "At the end of the day, it is a question of liability and the measure of damages, and that involves considering duty and care and causation, which are essentially legal, not scientific, matters."

The case comes after the whooping cough vaccine trials, where similarly the courts had to weigh competing scientific claims. Daniel Brennan QC said: "Mr Justice French will come to a commonsense conclusion. He is not likely to be bogged down by the scientific refinements. One cannot have judges spending their time analysing what scientists say and forgetting about ordinary people." Mr Justice

French was at the common law Bar but specialised in personal injuries work. He acted as counsel in the thalidomide actions and in a landmark damages case in 1980 in which a doctor who was brain-damaged in a hospital blunder was awarded what was then a record sum.

He went on to the High Court bench in 1979, where he is said to be courteous, receptive. One barrister said: "He is always well-prepared and extremely studious." In the criminal courts he faced calls to resign after fining a woman £50 for careless driving that led to the death of a



French: courteous and hard-working

boy aged 13. The maximum fine was £1,000.

He has been in the news equally for heavy sentencing. In 1987, he said that the impact on victims of "violent and wicked" sex attacks must be borne in mind by the courts and upheld heavy sentences on the rapist, and his accomplice, of a teenage virgin.

One of Mr Justice French's recreations is walking and a barrister said that he keeps lean and fit. That will stand him in good stead for the marathon trial. "He used to say," the barrister added, "that when it comes to the heart, it has to be exercise that makes you puff. And he likes a challenge: he will rise to it."

Swedes shine a new light on Conran's natural Habitat

By PAUL BARKER

THIS is a lament for, among other things, cheap red enamel mugs. Made in hard-line communist Poland, too hot to drink from but looking good, they were as much the guiding symbol of Sir Terence Conran's Habitat, when he founded it, as the red light is of a brothel.

Now the Swedish chain, Ikea, has bought Habitat, one of the last surviving icons of the sixties. I wrote and presented a BBC TV arts programme about Habitat in 1968. In those pre-commercial days, the BBC fretted that we were just publicising a firm. But sixties Habitat was more than a firm. It was a phenomenon.

Before then, the high street furniture store was a mausoleum, heavy with vast three-piece suites, dressing tables in light-oak veneer and even those things called sideboards. They were guarded by men in suits, called floorwalkers, but more like undertakers. Buying furniture was a big deal. You did it when you got married. The upshot (like most marriages then) stayed with you till you died.

Sir Terence's brilliant idea was that furniture buying could be light-hearted. He wrapped the furniture in a welcoming haze of crockery, and cheap and cheerful blinds. The staff smiled. The furniture came in flat-packs. It was instant gratification, not paradise on the installment plan.

Customers rapidly found that it was unwise to buy

anything from Habitat with moving parts. They moved all too easily. Sir Terence began to pay the pioneer's price. Reject Shop showed you could remain cheerful, while being even cheaper. These newer high street rivals left it to the customers to put together the designs, that matched their lives. Habitat had helped build that confidence in a new generation of shoppers. But it also created an entire, homogenous style that was all too recognisable.

When, in the eighties, Sir Terence created waterside flats in Butlers Wharf, near the Tower of London, he put Habitat furniture only into his cheaper show flat. The dearer flat was furnished by the much-smarter The Conran Shop.

Out of London, Habitat stores remained a good deal in a greyer world (like Waterstone bookshops, with which they have much in common). But in London Habitat was squeezed at the top end too. Christopher Wray had his Lighting Emporium. Viscount Linley had his high-craft furniture shop. The unified style, split. Probably nobody knew what a "market niche" was when Sir Terence began. They do now.

Even high streets themselves are turning into niches. Habitat, at first, was a bright spot in a dull but solid street. Now you have three categories of street. First, the street (increasingly dowdy) that has the usual branches of all the usual stores (including a re-

sidual Habitat). Second, the smart street with Gap and H&M, and a branch of the Dome cafe, which rocketed to prosperity in the eighties. Third, there is the underclass street, with its Kwik Save and Poundstretchers.

Cricklewood Broadway, in north London, is such a street. Here, last weekend, I watched young black mothers and fathers, with their babies, prodding at heaps of second-hand furniture set out on the pavement. This was where all those pre-Habitat suites of the fifties had come to roost. But the families turned away. Too dear.

Beyond Cricklewood is the drive-in land which is changing everything. The half-hole at the start of the M1 is home to Do It All Toys 'R Us, Food Giant — and just along the North Circular Road, Ikea. Each Ikea shop tries to be a high street in itself, complete with fast food shop. It is more like Manchester ringway, or Gatwick on a busy charter-flight day. You battle round and pick up your stuff at the end. This is the high street as production line. One of the few production lines we have left.

For me, Ikea is symbolised by the little black-finish halogen lamp. It shines bright. It folds small. If you put it on your desk, it doesn't work as well as it did in the store, because the light is too concentrated. Perhaps we haven't come so far from burning our lips on red enamel, after all.

Schoolboy's sex killer is jailed for life

By PAUL WILKINSON

AN UNEMPLOYED bachelor who strangled a seven-year-old schoolboy with binder twine after a sex attack and then went babysitting for friends, was jailed for life yesterday with a recommendation that he serve a minimum of 20 years.

Richard Blenkey, 33, admitted killing Paul Pearson in August last year on his allotment at Saltburn-by-the-Sea, Cleveland. Sentencing him at Teesside Crown Court, Mr Justice Blotfeld said that Blenkey showed a morbid interest in young boys. "The case indicates you are a danger to these vulnerable members of society."

The court was told that Blenkey was of limited intellect, immature and bordering on the subnormal, but psychiatrists believed he was not mentally ill and was fit to plead. He had a previous conviction in 1978 for breach of the peace after abducting a seven-year-old boy who had escaped before anything could happen.

The family of Paul Pearson had moved to the seaside village only three weeks before his death. His parents had believed it was a safer place for their son to play than the busy streets of Thornaby on Teesside, 15 miles away.

Blenkey had consistently denied the killing, pleading not guilty at a pre-trial review in February. But 11 days ago detectives were given a letter he had written to a man with whom he had struck up a correspondence while in prison awaiting trial. In it he admitted being the killer.

Paul Pearson disappeared on August 14 last year as he cycled home through the allotments near his home. His partly-clad body was found in a nearby ravine next day.

After the killing, Blenkey went to a friend's house to look after their children, the court was told. That evening he had even discussed the boy's disappearance with a police officer who called as part of the search for the missing child.

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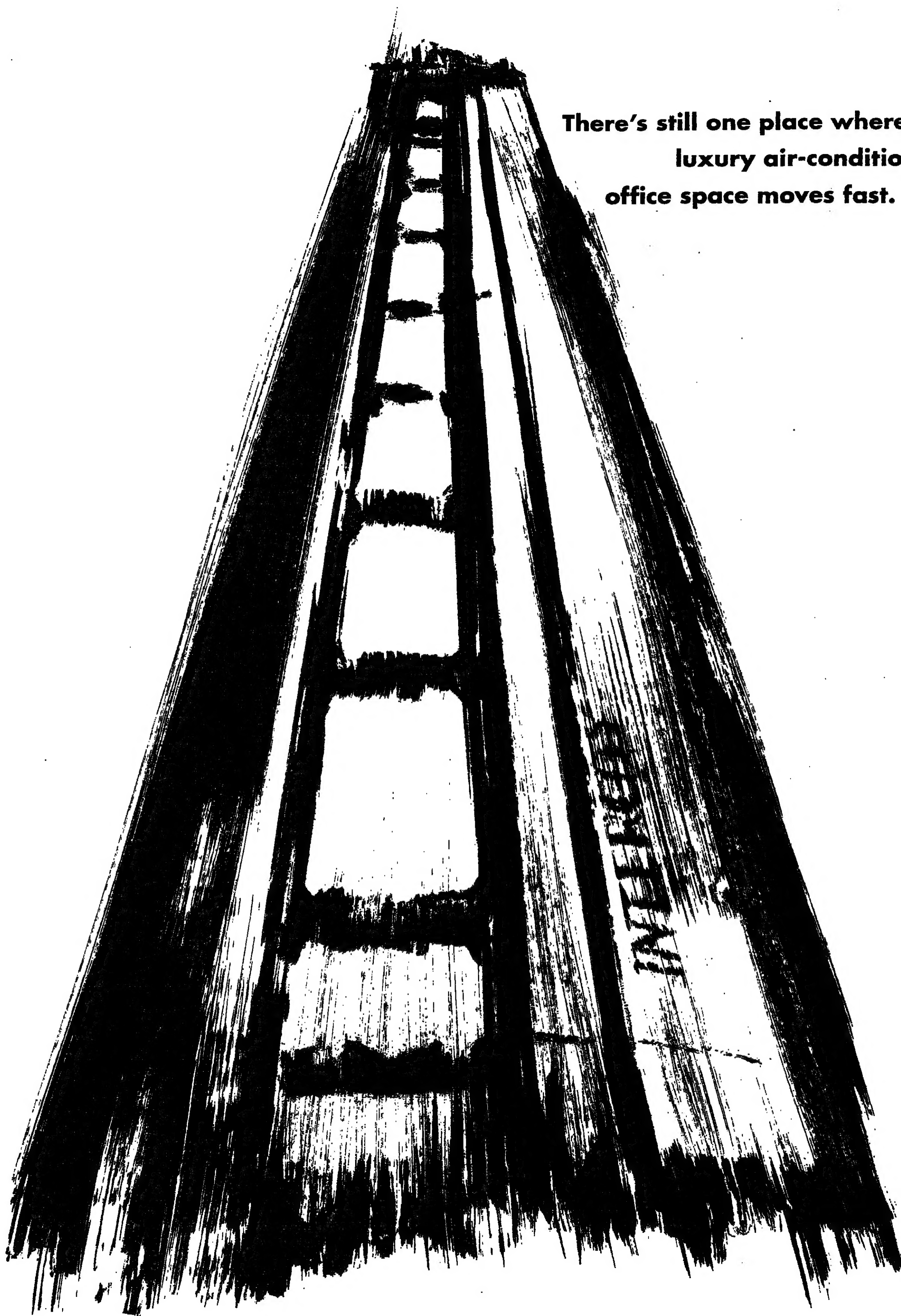
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Icon of the sixties: Sir Terence Conran at his King's Road store in 1968



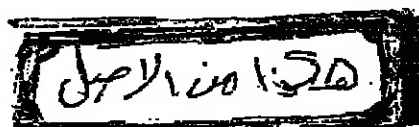
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Animals may die if Windsor safari park fails to find buyer

By NICHOLAS WATT

WINDSOR Safari Park made 90 of its 140 staff redundant yesterday after its abrupt closure over the weekend. The remaining staff will continue to care for the animals while the receivers try to sell the park as a going concern.

Oriana Pound, for Cork Gully, the receivers, said the staff would be paid off in accordance with government regulations on receiverships. The staff will be paid to date and will receive holiday pay. The remaining staff are more than a skeleton because they have to look after the animals," she said.

Last night it was confirmed that David Laing, whose £61 million redevelopment plan for London Zoo was rejected last week, was interested in the safari park. Ronel Lehmann, for Mr Laing's New Zoo Developments, said: "We have known about the problems at Windsor for some time and we have been holding discussions behind the scenes."

The centrepiece of Mr

Laing's plan for London Zoo was a walk-through aquarium in which visitors would come face to face with sharks and fish behind thick glass. Mr Lehmann confirmed that Windsor was now one of the sites that NZD was considering for the aquarium.

Windsor Safari Park was forced into receivership in January after falling attendances and the recession caused debts of £40 million. Ms Pound said that press speculation led to the park's abrupt closure. Ms Pound said that if no buyer were found, old and infirm animals might have to be put

down. Other animals would go to new homes. Animal lovers inundated the park's switchboard yesterday with enquiries about how they could house some of the park's 600 inhabitants. The most popular animals were tropical birds and reptiles. Some people even enquired about lions. David Brozen, the park's spokesman, said: "We would not send any animals to circuses and no animal dealers will be employed."

Colin Tudge, a member of the Zoological Society of London, which runs London Zoo, said people could not

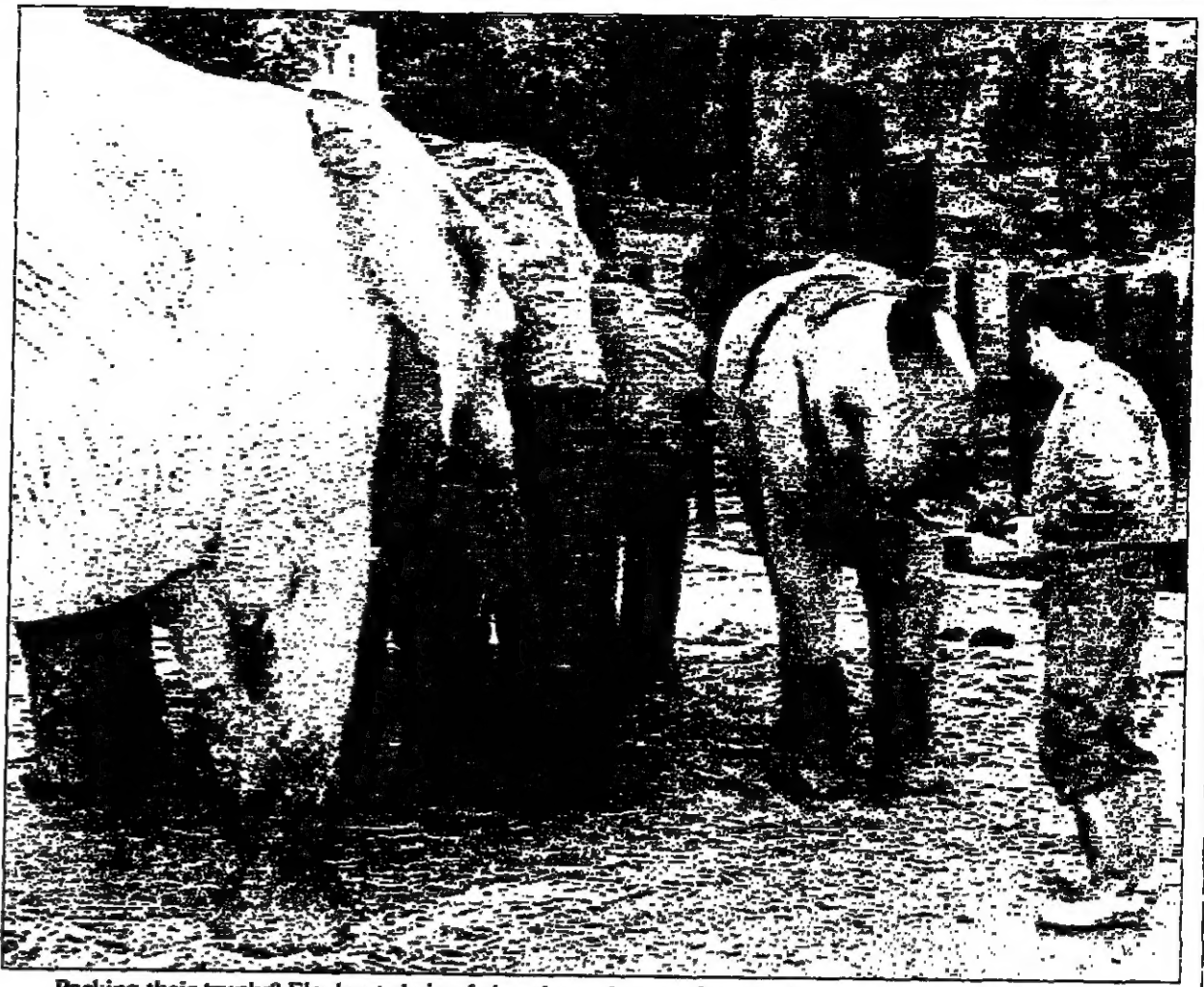
cope with elephants but could look after llamas, emus, wallabies, pelicans and cockatoos. But these would need great care. "Emus are very domestic but they do need high fencing and are not a short-term investment. If anyone took in a wallaby they would have to build a very secure fence. You can keep pelicans, but you would need a nice big area with a lake. But there is the problem of foxes and you would need a generous supply of fish."

Most of the animals at Windsor would fit badly in the average back garden, Mr Tudge said. "Zebras, for example, are very bad news. One little boy had his arm bitten off by one at a German zoo recently. Chimps are very dangerous: they have a habit of tearing arms off and it is cruel to separate them from their social group." Elephants needed a large area to roam around. "An elephant keeper is like a Rolls-Royce mechanic," Mr Tudge said.

COST OF ANIMAL CARE

Elephants: cost to keep less than three	
To employ two keepers for a year	£28,000
To build a special elephant centre over two acres	£500,000
A year's insurance to cover vets' bills	£1,350
Annual food bill	£18,720
Total:	£548,070
Wallabies: annual cost of food and vets' bills for each animal	£250
Housing and labour	£100
Secure fencing	£500
Total:	£850

Leading article, page 17



Packing their trunks? Elephants being fed at the park yesterday after keepers were told of the closure

Signalmen 'told crash driver to ignore red light'

By A STAFF REPORTER

An InterCity driver described yesterday how his train was hit from behind by another in the Severn Tunnel after signalmen instructed him to pass through a red danger light.

More than a third of the 300 passengers aboard the two trains were injured in December last year when the 8.30am Paddington to Cardiff train was rammed by a smaller Portsmouth to Cardiff Sprinter at the Gwent end of the tunnel under the Severn.

Giving evidence at a resumed public enquiry at Cardiff city hall David Robertson said he first thought his high-speed 125 Paddington-Cardiff service had been derailed and did not realise another train was involved. "I was in the middle of the tunnel when I felt this impact and was thrown forward in my seat."

Shaken but uninjured, he stopped the train, got out of his cab to alert signalmen and then walked 100 yards back down the line to investigate the crash. Towards the back of the train he met the conductor, who told him the driver of another train was trapped in his cab and was bleeding badly. Stephen Carpenter, the Sprinter train driver, lost an

eye. Mr Robertson, with 30 years' experience driving trains, told how he helped to free Mr Carpenter and later transferred passengers from the Sprinter to his own train before ferrying them to safety.

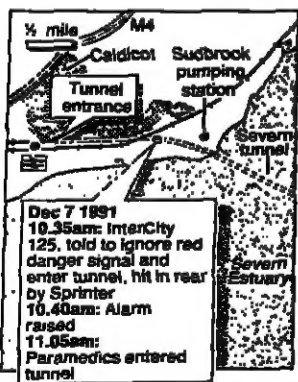
He told Robin Seymour, the accident inspector, that he received an amber signal and then a red danger signal three-quarters of a mile before entering the tunnel.

Following BR rules he stopped at the red signal and when he did not receive any further instructions got down from his cab to speak to a signalman, using the track-side telephone. "He told me they had some problems and instructed me to pass the signal. I got back into the cab, gave a blast on the horn and moved off." Mr Robertson said he followed the correct procedure - to proceed at caution to be prepared to stop at any instruction. His speed going into the tunnel was about 20mph.

British Rail has accepted responsibility for the crash and suspect that a signalling fault changed a red light to green. But an exhaustive probe by engineers has failed to find the exact cause. Many passengers are seeking compensation for their injuries.

The public enquiry, which opened in Bristol in July, has also heard of a two-hour delay in getting emergency services to the crash site because teams were initially sent to the Bristol end of the tunnel.

The enquiry has already heard that the main signalling system near the tunnel had been taken out of service and a "back-up" system was in operation while engineers were carrying out work. The enquiry continues today.



Salvation Army officer in uniform is raped

A SALVATION Army officer in uniform was raped in a darkened alleyway just yards from a village church.

The woman, in her early 40s, was grabbed from behind and then frogmarched into the alleyway by the rapist, who clasped his hands over her mouth and face. The attack happened on Sunday at 10.30pm as she walked past the Methodist church in Stotford, Bedfordshire. She was on her way home after visiting a relative in the village.

Detective Inspector Steve Camfield said: "She was outside the Methodist church and was about to cross over a road when a man grabbed her from behind and placed his hand over her face."

"She was then walked off with him still behind her for a distance of about 20 yards to a footpath which cuts down an alleyway off the high street. About 20 yards down the footpath there is a small section of wasteland and it was here that he raped her."

After the attack the man fled and the woman ran to the home of her parents, who live near by, and raised the alarm. Police, who do not have a clear description of the

attacker, carried out house-to-house enquiries in the village yesterday. They said that in spite of the village location it was a busy spot and they feel sure someone must have seen something.

The woman spent the night being interviewed in the special rape suite at Greyfriars police station in Bedford. Police said that she was severely upset and traumatised by the attack.

□ An 18-year-old student was abducted and raped twice at knifepoint. The girl, who was tied up and blindfolded throughout her 90-minute ordeal, was dumped on a lonely road on the outskirts of Nottingham.

She was on her way to meet her boy friend when she was approached from behind by her attacker on Sunday night as she stood at a bus stop in Woodthorpe. He held a knife to her throat and, after demanding money, dragged her behind some shops where he forced her into a car. She was then blindfolded and her hands tied behind her back.

She was released near the main A60 Nottingham to Mansfield road and made her way to a telephone box to call her mother.

Buried in the avalanche of recent Compaq announcements that surprised many of its competitors, one product in particular has received little mention. It's the Compaq Business Audio, so we'll help them along a little bit. The feature in question - dubbed by Compaq "Integrated Business Audio" - is simple enough. The Business Audio system both comes with a small hard disk drive and a system board to record and play back digital audio. It also has a connector for external speakers. And, if you want, you can use the internal speaker to play back digital audio. And, if you want, you can use the internal speaker to play back digital audio. And, if you want, you can use the internal speaker to play back digital audio.

And, of course, there's Microsoft's involvement, and the statement released by Compaq earlier this year which said "All three companies (Compaq, Analog and Microsoft) are readying audio-capable products for announcement later this year."

The fact that Microsoft has its fingers in this particular pie should ring alarm bells for all those who've said in the past, Redmond's competition is near, and where Compaq treads a solitary path today, others will follow.

pc user, 29th July - 11th August 1992

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Labour criticises proposal to sell off 200 monuments and historic sites

Minister backs strategy to put heritage in private hands

By JOHN YOUNG

UP TO 200 historic buildings and monuments now in the care of English Heritage could be handed over to private or local authority management under a plan announced yesterday. Nearly 500 staff, more than a quarter of the total, will be made redundant over the next four years, and the organisation's direct labour force is to be privatised.

Jocelyn Stevens, English Heritage's chairman, said that properties were being divided into three categories of importance, and that efforts would be concentrated on the first two. The lists had not yet been completed, but the top group would consist of about 60 and the second about 100, leaving about 200 which might, where appropriate, be transferred to new ownership.

In the Commons last night, the Opposition branded Mr Stevens as "an unsuitable ideological ignoramus". Robin Corbett, the Labour spokesman, said that some monuments were "doomed to neglect". Mr Brooke responded that Mr Stevens had produced "a positive, forward-looking strategy". Doug Murdoch, of the Civil and Public Services Association, said: "It appears that this country's heritage is being put at risk by a cost-cutting government."

Mr Stevens promised that sites of outstanding national and international importance, such as Stonehenge and Avebury, which have been given United Nations World Heritage status, would remain in national custodianship. There was also no question of abandoning properties of less importance.

Mr Stevens made clear that the plan offered little scope for argument or discussion. It had been drawn up by senior staff over the past six months, and had been approved by English Heritage commissioners and by Michael Howard and Peter Brooke, the environment and

heritage secretaries. One proposal which has caused particular dismay is that English Heritage will withdraw its powers to oversee grade two listed buildings in Greater London. These powers were inherited from the former Greater London Council historic buildings committee, and their abandonment will, it is feared, give a licence to certain London boroughs which have shown indifference and even hostility to conservation.

Mr Stevens claimed that the plan offered a realistic programme for safeguarding the heritage. "We are raising our standards, not dropping them as many press reports have suggested," he said. "The public sector as a whole must come to terms with the state of the national economy."

The plan states that, while English Heritage will maintain its role as "acquirer of last resort", it will focus its resources on buildings listed grade one or grade two or, in exceptional circumstances, where a local solution to an important building or site is impossible because of cost, complexity or technical difficulty. It will generate extra cash from whatever sources it can activate, and will explore the possible setting up of a conservation fund to harness private resources to enable it to take emergency action.

English Heritage also plans to increase income from admissions to sites and monuments, sales and membership, and to launch a public appeal for funds. Mr Stevens said the proposed national lottery could offer a lifeline for conservation and archaeology, but that would not be before 1995 at the earliest.

Mr Stevens rejected a suggestion by John Gorr, Conservative MP for Hendon North, that he was being elitist in concentrating on the most important buildings and ignoring the needs of smaller



Historic vision: Mr Stevens yesterday announcing a private future for Britain's public past

and less well-known houses. "I do not regard managing England's heritage as managing its stately homes," he said.

Much of English Heritage's work was concerned with industrial buildings. Just as historic houses were more interesting with their contents and landscape intact, so factories were more interesting with their original machinery intact and dockyards containing ships. He was particularly proud of the Canning Street restoration in Liverpool, for which £6 million had been allowed over the next six years.

Baroness Hollis of Heigham, a former English Heritage commissioner, suggested it was unreasonable to burden local authorities, which had been charged with and forced to cut budgets and make staff redundant, with extra responsibilities for historic buildings. Mr Stevens replied that no transfers would be made without full discussions.

Orkney report to seek guide on child sex-abuse victims

By RAY CLANCY

NATIONAL guidelines on interviewing victims of child sex abuse and legislation on parents' rights and responsibilities are likely to be recommended in the Orkney judicial inquiry report, to be published today.

The 400-page report, prepared by Lord Clyde, is expected to make more than 180 recommendations. Lord Clyde is expected to recognise that the whole area of child sexual abuse is a complex one. The situation in Orkney was compounded by the scale of the allegations and the large numbers of adults and children said to have been involved.

The enquiry was into the

handling of investigations of alleged ritual sexual abuse on South Ronaldsay which led to the removal of nine children from their homes and their return three months later amid allegations of incompetence by social workers involved in the case.

Most social workers, especially those in rural areas, never encountered child sex abuse and those who may have come across one case involving one family would still be totally unprepared to deal with organised ritual abuse. The report is likely to address the issue of more training for social workers.

All those involved now agree that the truth about what happened on the windswept island where pagan customs are intrinsically mingled with life, work, marriage and death, will never be known.

Despite 131 days of evidence to the enquiry, costing £6 million, the questions everybody wanted addressed remain unanswered.

At the enquiry it was never made clear how many were involved in a supposed de-

monic and sex-orientated circle of abuse that met in a deserted quarry and involved adults in the community as well as children. The enquiry was told that eight children from a family where the father had already been jailed for physical and sexual abuse were taken into care. Three of them told care workers of bizarre sexual rituals involving a master dressed in a black cloak and hood.

Last night, the enquiry was labelled as narrow and circumstantial because of its limited remit to report on the future and not the past. Cyril Annal, a local councillor, believes it was a disaster. "What we need is the names of the people involved cleared, an apology from the social work department and a reorganisation," he said.

Peter Thurnham, Conservative MP for Bolton Northeast, wants a recommendation that children should not be taken from their homes in raids. The RSPCA wants the appointment of an independent official to manage all official groups involved.

Bottomley declares for women priests

By RUTH GLEDHILL
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

VIRGINIA Bottomley, the health secretary, declared her support for women priests yesterday by hosting the launch of the latest advertising campaign for the Movement for the Ordination of Women at the House of Commons. Her decision to "come out" as a supporter of women priests places her at odds with fellow cabinet member, John Gummer, the agriculture minister.

Mrs Bottomley said she felt a "growing sense of resentment" as a woman that there were no women ordained priests in the Church of England.

The meeting, supported also by Conservative MPs Emma Nicholson and Peter Bottomley and the Liberal Democrat Simon Hughes, came two weeks before the decisive vote on women priests on November 11 by the general synod of the Church of England. Mr Gummer, a member of the synod, has threatened to leave the church if it ordains women priests.

The campaign features Dr Susan Cole-King, a woman priest who was ordained in the United States but is working in England as a deacon, unable to celebrate communion or pronounce absolution. Advertisements to be published in the church press this week say: "As a minister-in-charge of an Oxfordshire parish, she has to waste precious time each week, tracking down male priests to conduct the parts of services forbidden to her."

The campaign marks a move into a higher gear by supporters of women priests. The Movement for the Ordination of Women has faced

■ Any material differences aside, the cabinet is now divided on an important spiritual issue

criticism from its radical wing, Uppity, for "too much prayer and not enough action". The debate has become particularly heated since the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, appealed earlier this month for opponents to behave with love and charity.

Mrs Bottomley said Britain had a woman head of state and had had a woman head of government. As a constituency MP and a woman, she supported the ordination of women priests.

She had always been a "gentle" supporter of woman priests, believing it would take the church time to come round. Her views strengthened on seeing women deacons at work in her constituency, and after visiting New Zealand, where women are priests and there is one woman bishop.

The views of MPs will become increasingly important if the measure to ordain women priests is voted through by the two-thirds majority needed from the bishops, clergy and laity on the general synod. It will then have to be approved by parliament before it can receive royal assent.

The Right Rev Barry Rogerson, bishop of Bristol, said the issue might be the most important one facing the church. "The equality, dignity and worth of every human being is the central plank of the gospel."

Hotline rebuke for press watchdog

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE Press Complaints Commission has been rebuked for refusing to accept third-party complaints and failing to set up a "hotline" to allow victims of press intrusion to complain before an article or photograph is published.

Five former members of the old Press Council said the commission, which replaced it almost two years ago, had been wrong to ignore recommendations contained in the 1990 Calcutt report into privacy and the press. They urged Sir David Calcutt QC, now conducting a second government enquiry into newspaper self-regulation, to again recommend the hotline.

A hotline would allow those who had reason to fear imminent intrusion into their privacy by identifiable newspapers to call the commission, which could then warn the editors. "Whether to pursue — and no doubt seek to justify — the intrusion would remain a question for the editor, but the use of the hotline would reduce the danger that unjustifiable intrusion might take place without the editor's knowledge or consent," the members told Sir David.

The five, who include Louis Blom-Cooper QC, the former council chairman, and Ken Morgan, its former director, also called on the commission to take complaints from a wider cross-section of society, not just those directly affected by stories printed about them.

They also say the public should be able to complain about instances of unethical press conduct which are not covered by the newspaper industry's code of conduct.

Surgeons transplant muscle to man's heart

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

A PATIENT in a Manchester hospital has been treated for heart failure by having a muscle removed from his shoulder and wrapped around his heart to provide extra power. The surgeon, Tim Hooper, said it was the first time this form of heart surgery had been used successfully in Britain.

The operation was carried out last Wednesday at Wythenshawe Hospital on a 52-year-old man, who is doing well. He is expected to leave hospital next week. After that, a pacemaker inserted during the operation will be turned on to stimulate contractions of the muscle, which will help the heart to pump.

The operation, called cardiomyoplasty, has been carried out on more than 200 patients in the United States and in continental Europe. Mr Hooper said the results had been very promising, with patients who had been severely disabled by heart failure able to lead more normal lives. The loss of the muscle from the shoulder has no apparent ill-effects.

The operation costs half that of a heart transplant, and because the patient's own tissue is used, there is no need for anti-rejection drugs.

A 51-year-old man received a new heart at Papworth Hospital yesterday — its 500th heart transplant operation. The married man from the West Midlands is said to be in a satisfactory condition.

John Wallwork, director of the transplant service, said: "Our activity is restricted only by the number of organs available."

Low-income families 'not eating properly'

By NICHOLAS WATT

MANY families cannot afford basic necessities such as proper food and clothing as they struggle to cope with mounting debt, a survey discloses today. It shows that half of low-income families blame financial worries for marital problems.

The National Children's Home asked 347 families living on low incomes how they coped with debt. Nearly half of those questioned (48 per cent) said they felt too ashamed or embarrassed to discuss their problems.

Nearly a third (31 per cent) felt like running away, while 29 per cent said they felt like stealing to make ends meet.

The study shows half of respondents were going into debt to buy everyday necessities. Eighty-two per cent of those receiving benefit payments had a net weekly income of under £100, while 83 per cent of families earning incomes lived on under £200 a week.

Many parents said they had felt desperate about money at some time and a few even said they had contemplated suicide. Most of the families (80 per cent) said their children were going without clothes and shoes they needed, and two-thirds of parents who were deeply in debt said they were worried that their children's behaviour would be affected.

The survey comes after Peter Lilley, the social security secretary, told this year's Conservative party conference that he would clamp down on scroungers. But Tom White, chief executive of the National Children's Home, said the report painted such a shocking picture of family life for tens of thousands of British households that the government should take immediate action.

The government should end the controversial social-fund loans and replace them with grants, while child benefit should be restored to its 1985 real value, he said.

The NCH also wants to see more help with fuel bills, and moves to make families aware of all benefits to which they are entitled. It cited the case of Simon, whose surname was withheld, to show how the NCH has helped people caught by spiralling debts. Even though Simon had a full-time job, his family had gone into debt to buy basic items. An NCH office helped him to reduce his repayments, but Simon then fell ill. Again the NCH helped him to restructure his debts.

The report said: "By seeking advice at an early stage Simon was able to tackle his financial problems before the situation became unmanageable."

The way it isn't
CRAIG BROWN

THIS month, the 10,000th issue of *Tatler* is being celebrated, prompting me to recall my own glorious career as a reporter. A common illusion is that war reporters have the toughest time of it. I am glad to correct that illusion.

I was once asked to interview Margaret, Duchess of Argyll, for *Tatler* on the subject of her pet dog, Alphonse. When I arrived at her apartment, the commissionaire told me that she was out with Alphonse.

Ten minutes later she came to the door. As I approached her, she visibly flinched. Perhaps she thought I was a mugger. "I'm from the *Tatler*," I corrected told her. She looked me up and down with a look of ill-concealed disgust. "You certainly don't look as though you're from the *Tatler*," she said. "Where's your identification?" I scribbled about in the pockets of my jeans. Old sweet-papers, rubberbands and shopping receipts began to tumble onto the deep blue carpet of the Grosvenor House. I could find no identification. The interview was terminated forthwith.

Later, when it was rescheduled, I begged a friend of mine in terror to take my place. Alas, his interview also ended in tears, and later the duchess demanded a printed retraction of his colloquialism "Bugger's Gipsies" to describe the cut of the fur on the cheeks of little Alphonse.

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Debate continues 25 years on

Abortion adversaries demand law reform

By LOUISE HIDALGO

A QUARTER of a century on, the debate over legalised abortion continues to provoke high emotions. In Britain, the political upheavals which characterised the debate in the sixties and which now affect the American presidential elections, took place 25 years ago.

Today, on the 25th anniversary of the passing of the Abortion Act by parliament, Ann Winterton, Conservative MP for Congleton, will lead a parliamentary delegation to Downing Street to protest against a legal framework which she and others believe allows "abortion on demand".

They will bear a wreath of white flowers in remembrance of the 3.7 million abortions which have been carried out since the termination of pregnancies in the UK was legalised. Emotive symbols have typified the uncompromising style of campaigning on both sides of the abortion divide.

For the past week, anti-abortion campaigners, or pro-lifers as they prefer to be called, have been fasting on the streets of London. Yesterday the opposing camps rallied within half-a-mile of each other in central London to mark the anniversary. There is

Both camps in the battle over abortion continue to wage a war of shock tactics, but agree that current legislation is failing to satisfy either side

little room for compromise, but on one point at least both are agreed: the abortion legislation first introduced by David Steel (now Sir David) in 1967, and amended in 1991 by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act, is in serious need of revision.

Jane Roe, co-ordinator of the Abortion Law Reform Association, says people are mistaken if they believe this country promotes abortion on request. "As the law stands, women do not decide to have an abortion. Doctors decide. Yet the decision being made is a moral and a social one. It is not a medical one."

In a poll of women seeking terminations at a charitable clinic, two thirds said their request had been treated unsympathetically by their GP, or that they had been told they would have to wait between five to six weeks for an abortion on the national health service.

"It is a difficult decision for any woman. It is unacceptable to make it more difficult," Ms

Roe says. "We have had cases where women have been turned away by doctors with the words: 'You're young, fit and healthy. Go away and have the child.'"

The pro-choicers believe public opinion is on their side. Two polls carried out last year, one on behalf of Ms Roe's association, showed that more than three quarters of adults support a woman's right to choose an abortion.

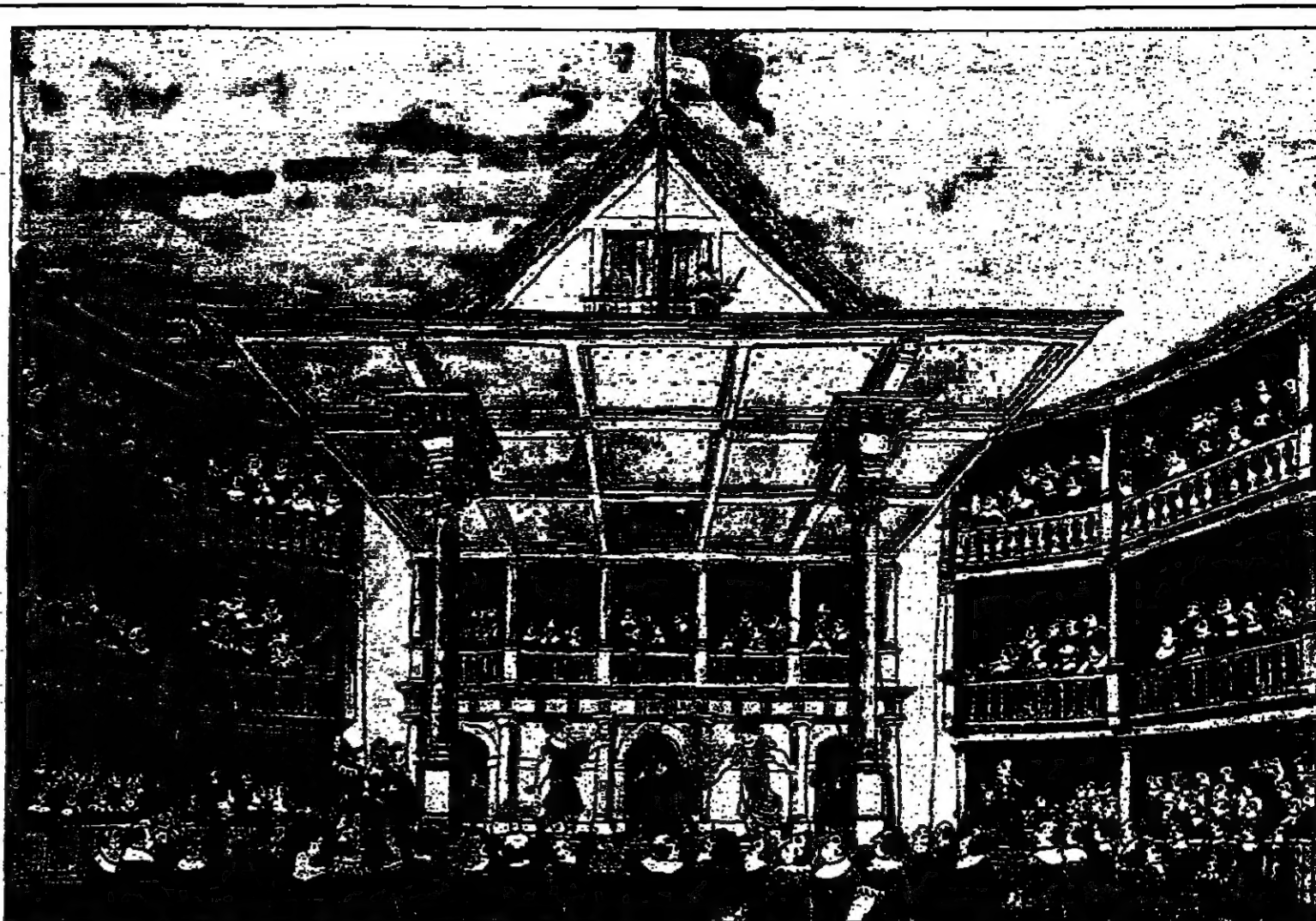
The anti-abortionist campaigners believe they have been misled and maligned, caricatured as "Catholic, misogynist bigots", in the words of David Alton, Liberal Democrat MP for Liverpool, Mossley Hill and veteran pro-lifer. "We were led to believe that the parameters of the 1967 Abortion Act would not be abused," Mrs Winterton said. "They have been. We now have the most liberal abortion laws in Europe, where a mother of three can request, and obtain, an abortion on the grounds she has booked a skiing holiday," she claimed.

It took nearly 24 years for anti-abortion campaigners to achieve changes to the 1967 Act but when they came they were most unwelcome. The 1991 bill reduced the time limit from 28 to 24 weeks, but scrapped the virtual ban that had existed on abortions after 28 weeks. After the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act had made its stormy way through parliament, chief whips said the issue was closed for the next ten years.

When the Liberal Democrats voted at their party conference last month to adopt a motion on abortion for the first time in 25 years, many delegates were furious. Mr Alton announced he would not stand again.



Sir David in 1967: his legislation needs revision



Shakespeare in the round: the audience of 1,500 will be clustered around the stage, much nearer the actors than in modern theatres

Scholars set the scene for Globe's reconstruction

By ALISON ROBERTS
ARTS REPORTER

PLANS for the reconstruction of Shakespeare's Globe theatre have been finalised by a team of international experts. New designs for the stage itself have been based on scholarly conjecture and archaeological evidence and show a majestic carved back wall built within the "wooden O".

A team of Shakespearean theatre academics from all over the world met in London earlier this month to thrash out a final version of the much-disputed theatre dimensions and to agree upon plans for the stage.

Further debate was necessary following the construction of two of the 20 sides of the theatre, located on London's South Bank. Jon Greenfield, an architect from Penzance, said three visions of

the stage had been discussed.

"The stage and tiring house, a sort of backstage where the actors got changed, will be built within the circle. The back wall will be fixed, highly coloured and highly carved in an early classical style with three doors in it," he said.

"The huge oak heavens will be coffered and painted and the wooden pillars will be painted to make them look like marble." Winding machinery for a literal *deus ex machina* effect will be housed in the pyramid-shaped stage roof.

The scholars, led by the American actor-director Sam Wanamaker, whose perseverance has enabled the project to get this far, are determined to make every aspect of the theatre as authentic as possible. They decided that the flag, raised over the circle during every performance, should be

hoisted from a stair turret rather than from the front gable.

Professor Andrew Gurr, who chaired the conference, said that a resident company would be formed once the theatre was built. The new designs show that the 1,500-strong audience, clustered around the rectangular stage, would be much nearer the actors than in modern theatres.

"This conference was a major step forward in that we now know we have a design of the Globe that is absolutely the best that we can work out," he said. "It will be quite radically different, even from The Swan at Stratford. The actors may be inhibited by the fact that they can see the audience as well as the audience can see them."

While the opening is still on schedule for 1994, a timetable for construction depends upon finance.



The Bard: his theatre to live again

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One hundred days of John Smith brings new unity to a party battered by defeat

By JULIA LLEWELLYN SMITH

JOHN Smith's first hundred days as Labour leader have confounded the sceptics who predicted bitter in-fighting after Labour's fourth successive general election defeat in April.

Instead, under Mr Smith's leadership, Labour has been united in its determination to sweep from office the Conservatives, and Mr Smith yesterday celebrated the milestone buoyed up by a revival in the party's fortunes and with a rediscovered enthusiasm for the political fray.

Despite his frequent appearances on television, real-life sightings around the party's Walworth Road headquarters in south London were as rare as signs of an upturn in the economy. Waiters at the Pizzeria Castello, whose pizzas the other John, Mr Major, recently criticised for their high garlic content, said they had never noticed the Labour leader dining there. "Perhaps he doesn't like garlic either," said Renzo Meda.

Mr Smith has already impressed observers with his performance over the past three months. Opinion polls show high public satisfaction with his leadership of the

Labour party. He will be all too aware that it has been the government's problems rather than his own actions which have brought him success so far. He has been presented with a series of heaven-sent opportunities to attack the government — the sterling crisis, the continuing recession, pit closures and the prime minister's leadership style.

Mr Smith, a former Parliamentarian of the Year, has used his Commons appearances to put the government on the ropes. He was judged to have beaten Mr Major hands-down during the emergency economic debate last month and during last week's question time exchanges.

In party terms, he now has a tighter grip on the Labour machine than even Neil Kinnock did. The shadow cabinet is "Smith-ite" almost to a man and woman, especially since the resignation last month of his leadership rival, Bryan Gould, over Europe. The ruling national executive committee also bears his stamp, with left-wingers such as Dennis Skinner, the MP for Bolsover, making way for Mr Smith's loyal lieutenants.



Ladies' man: John Smith, the Labour leader, takes a walk with his wife Elizabeth and daughters Sarah, left, Jane and Catherine in St James's park, London

Heseltine promises 'thorough' review of the coal industry

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY

MICHAEL Heseltine yesterday prepared for his trial at the hands of fellow MPs by pledging to re-examine his own powers in limiting the number of gas-fired power stations.

On the eve of what is expected to be a painful appearance before the Commons all-party trade and industry select committee, Mr Heseltine sought to prove that his forthcoming review will go to the heart of the government's energy policy.

Announcing the terms of reference of what he called the "thorough and wide-ranging" coal industry review, Mr Heseltine set a five-week deadline for evidence to be submitted. He confirmed that a subsequent white paper, setting out the results of the review, will be published early next year. The role of the private sector in coal production will be a focal point of the review, as will anticipated levels of imported coal.

An important part of the review will be to reassess the relative costs of coal and gas-fired generation of electricity and will examine estimates of the likely reserves of gas. Opponents of the pit closure programme have said consistently that the costs and depth of reserves are crucial to any consideration of the future of the coal industry. Mr

The Commons trade and industry select committee will today question Mr Heseltine on the future of the coal industry

Heseltine's review will examine whether any electricity company "is abusing its position in the market place" and will investigate whether plans to run down coal stocks both at pits and at power stations "are sensibly phased".

Labour immediately questioned the sense of Mr Heseltine conducting a review when he had already made his views known, and repeated its call for the trade and industry select committee to carry out the assessment.

Each of the 21 threatened coal pits subject to a moratorium will be examined individually, taking into account the effects of the government's energy policy on the future of British Coal and job prospects in the industry. Consultation will involve trades unions, energy providers and consumers and other interested parties. Mr Heseltine said in a Commons written reply.

Mr Heseltine emphasised that the review will reassess the powers of the president of the board of trade to consent to the building of new gas-fired stations. Currently, he cannot stipulate the type of fuel used to fire new stations, but the

review could lead to greater government intervention.

In a further new announcement, he added that he would appoint consultants to advise on British Coal's prospects, including whether there were viable alternative markets for coal in Britain and abroad. The independent report will be in addition to one already announced in which Boyd, a mining consultancy, will look at the viability of the 21 pits.

Mr Heseltine's promise to re-examine the policy of consent reinforces the intention indicated last March by Lord Wakeham, when energy secretary, to intervene in the choice of fuel used in new power stations.

Since then, however, Tim Eggar, the energy minister, has approved the building of new gas-fired stations without intervention. Labour has consistently called for the government to be more aggressive in questioning the power companies over their choice of fuel.

Earlier, Robin Cook, the shadow trade and industry secretary, demanded an admission from Mr Heseltine that he would have to postpone the privatisation of British Coal because of the review of the pit closure programme.

In a letter to the board of trade president on the eve of Mr Heseltine's appearance in front of the trade and industry select committee, Mr Cook said that the privatisation was dependent on knowing the number of pits available, a figure which could not be established until the review had been concluded.

"It is presumably not possible for you ask Parliament to approve the privatisation of British Coal until next spring and doubtful whether such a contentious measure could be concluded in this session."

Mr Cook said: "Another government timetable has been wrecked. Who is going to buy British Coal until they know how many pits ministers are going to keep open? Privatisation was the main reason why ministers were so keen to shut pits. The decision to halt closures must also be a decision to halt privatisation."



Heseltine: putting his own powers on the line



Straw: UK "becoming a second-rate nation"

Labour seeks to revive housing

By Peter Riddell

THE Labour leadership will this morning put forward proposals aimed at reviving the housing market after yesterday highlighting official figures showing a low relative level of public investment in infrastructure in Britain.

Jack Straw, Labour's shadow environment secretary, cited statistics produced by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, showing that the British government has been investing less per head in housing, construction and infrastructure (including transport) than in almost all other leading industrialised countries.

On the basis of gross capital formation by central government as a percentage of gross domestic product, Britain lags behind other large European countries, well behind Japan and is only ahead of the United States. Public investment in housing dropped sharply during the 1980s but that was partly because of a deliberate shift in government policy to investment in housing by the private sector.

Mr Straw said the figures "starkly illustrate how Britain is fast becoming a second-rate nation with an increasingly Third World feel about much of its urban areas. It would be a monumental social and economic failure for the British government to allow this to continue."

The package to be announced today reflects the recognition by Labour leaders that they need to offer their own alternative policies as well as criticising the government.

Lynne Truss, page 16

Lack of railway investment 'puts 15,000 jobs at risk'

By MICHAEL DYNES, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

FIFTEEN thousand jobs will be lost in the recession-hit railway supply industry without government approval for series of long-overdue rolling stock, track, and signalling schemes, according to a survey published today.

Failure to authorise the investment schemes, many of which are urgently needed to replace old British Rail equipment, could lead to the collapse of whole sections of the rail supply industry, forcing future rail operators to buy their equipment from abroad, the survey says.

Calling on the government

to end the uncertainty surrounding rail investment in the run-up to privatisation, which is scheduled to begin in April 1994, the survey urges ministers to throw a lifeline to the rail supply industry by authorising the more urgent rail schemes in the Chancellor's Autumn Statement.

The survey, which was carried out by transport consultants Steer Davies Gleave on behalf of Eurotunnel and the pressure group Transport 2000, warns that without additional orders, no new trains will be built in Britain after 1995. In addition, orders

for new track will run out in 1993, while orders for new railway signalling systems will run out in 1994.

David Gillan, the director of the railway industry association, which represents 60 engineering and telecommunications companies dependent on the railway investment programme, said that manufacturers were finishing off orders placed at the end of the 1980s, and no new orders were in sight. Unless overdue investment schemes were approved soon, the industry could lose "up to 15,000 jobs over the next two years", he said.

British Rail, which drew up its ambitious investment programme during the boom years of the 1980s, was forced to trim its aspirations by a recession which led to a substantial contraction in income from fares and property sales needed to help finance the investment programme.

Plans to introduce an estimated 1,600 Networker coaches to replace antiquated Network SouthEast rolling stock were trimmed back to 750 coaches, while a £750 million proposal to upgrade the ageing West Coast mainline between London and Glasgow was shelved in favour of a new generation of SuperCity 250 trains, which had to be abandoned for the foreseeable future.

Unless the government steps in to shore up the rail investment programme, including approval for the proposed Jubilee line extension between Great Park and Stratford via Canary Wharf, "large chunks of the railway manufacturing industry could disappear, never to reappear", Mr Gillan said.

BR sell-off will create work, minister predicts

By ROBERT MORGAN, PARLIAMENTARY STAFF

THE prospect of more jobs on the railways was held out during Commons questions yesterday, when Roger Freeman, the public transport minister, said that privatisation of British Rail would lead to a "vigorous leasing market" for railway carriages and freight trucks.

Mr Freeman said: "The market will develop naturally and will permit private sector franchises, and also those who provide and run rail freight services, to place orders for new rolling stock."

The minister said he hoped that, with the assistance of the financial markets, this leasing market would develop in the same way as the leasing markets for ships, buses and taxis.

He told MPs that there had been considerable interest

from private firms on taking up franchises to run passenger and freight services.

Robert Adley, the Conservative chairman of the all-party transport select committee, and opponent of privatisation, is concerned about the speed with which the government is moving, saying that it was "wrong to 'publish' the privatisation bill before the 'paving' bill, at present before the House of Lords, had passed into law."

He also complained that the white paper on franchising contained no information on the fundamental issues of changes.

But Mr Freeman promised that there would be "very thorough discussions" and said that detailed consideration of the bill would take "much of 1993".

MPs to have veto on fishing curbs

By ROBERT MORGAN, PARLIAMENTARY STAFF

THE government has agreed to give Parliament more control over its controversial plans to reduce the number of days fishermen will be allowed to stay at sea.

Ministers have argued that curbs are necessary in order to conserve fish stocks but the fishing industry says that many fishermen would lose their livelihoods. So great is their anger that dozens of boats sailed up the Thames to Westminster during the summer in a demonstration of their views, and during the Conservative party conference

in Brighton, fishermen demonstrated just off the coast.

In the Lords last night, Earl Howe, an agriculture and fisheries minister, said the government would amend the sea fish (conservation) bill, currently before the upper House, so that an affirmative resolution has to be put before both Houses every time the government intends to make overall reductions in days-at-sea allocations.

The bill's main provision empowers ministers to impose restrictions on the amount of time boats may spend at sea. A

sea fish licence tribunal will be set up to consider appeals against licence conditions restricting days at sea, while the penalty for breaching a licence condition will be increased from £5,000 to £50,000.

Earl Howe said: "I know that there is widespread concern, and deep concern in the fishing industry, about the bill. It is said that days-at-sea restrictions will ruin the livelihoods of many fishermen. This is simply not true." He added that he hoped to table another amendment to tackle "quota hopping" by foreign fishermen. It might be possible to use satellite technology to monitor compliance more closely, he said.

Future reductions in parts of the fishing fleet to meet conservation targets could not be ruled out. "But the figure of 30 per cent that has been widely reported by representatives of the industry is a considerable exaggeration," he said. "Our aim is to start by freezing effort at last year's levels. This should not seriously affect levels of profitability and we believe that all fishermen will be able to take up their full entitlement of fish. Moreover, fishermen will continue to be permitted to transfer licences and will therefore have the opportunity to acquire additional days at sea if they wish."

The minister added: "We must take action to ensure that we take no more fish from the sea than can be replaced by remaining stocks."



Debate demand rejected

A Labour MP failed to get an emergency debate on the closure of a coal mine in his constituency on Friday night, despite undertakings by ministers last week.

John Evans, MP for St Helens North, said that union officials at the Fackeldey colliery had been told on Friday morning that work at the pit would cease that evening.

"This was in spite of undertakings during the previous Wednesday's Commons debate that there would be genuine consultation."

Betty Boothroyd, the Speaker, said the matter was not appropriate for an emergency debate.

Norris silent

Steve Norris, minister for London's transport, declined to be drawn on the timing of an announcement on the future of the extension of London Underground's Jubilee line. During transport questions, he said that such big projects had to meet two criteria — desirability and affordability. It was, he added, an excellent project and he hoped it would proceed, but the decision would be made by others on the basis of overall affordability.

£1.5m in fund

The government still has £1.5 million in its emergency fund set up to help pensioners caught up in the Maxwell pension fraud, Ann Widdowcombe, a social security minister, said in a written reply. The £1 million so far allocated to Maxwell-linked pension schemes had enabled payments to 5,500 pensioners, deferred pensioners, and those retiring because of ill health whose payments were at risk.

Free trade

Anthony Nelson, Treasury economic secretary, said in written replies that he had no plans to introduce controls aimed at curbing currency speculators. It would not be realistic to impose restraints on UK-based banks when sterling was traded worldwide.

New peers

Harry Ewing, the former Labour MP for Falkirk East, and Gareth Williams, chairman of the Bar, were introduced in the Lords and took their seats on the Labour benches as Lord Ewing of Kirkford and Lord Williams of Mostyn.

In Parliament

Commons (2.30): Questions: defence; prime minister: Timetable motion on and conclusion of remaining stages of the Cardiff Bay barrage bill. Lords (2.30): Judicial pensions and retirement bill, report stage, first day.

Era of openness puts state secrecy's 'toothless old dog' on notice

By MICHAEL EVANS and ROBERT MORGAN

The D-notice system, under which a retired admiral offers advice to the media about the wisdom of mentioning the whereabouts of a nuclear bomb factory or the name of the secret intelligence service chief, is to be reviewed.

In spite of the government's declared espousal of openness, the old D-notice system, the nearest thing to government censorship, has survived.

However, Rear Admiral Bill Higgins, longstanding secretary of the Defence Press and Broadcasting Committee, which manages the D-notice system, has faced a job with diminishing returns. Certain areas of Whitehall secre-

cy, which were previously regarded as sacred, are no longer viewed in the same light.

Two of the favourite D-notice old chestnuts, keeping the names of newly appointed heads of MI5 and MI6 out of the newspapers, were unceremoniously discarded by the prime minister himself when it was announced in December last year that Stella Rimington had been chosen to be the next director-general of MI5. The government also acknowledged for the first time that Sir Colin McColl was chief of MI6.

Yesterday, Archie Hamilton, the armed forces minister, said in a Commons written reply to David Clark, the shadow defence secretary, that the review of the D-notice

system would be completed by next spring.

The D-notice which is a purely discretionary system, has existed for 80 years. It was started in 1912, at the time of spy mania in Britain before the first world war, when the Admiralty feared that details of warship construction were reaching the Kaiser.

The number of occasions on which a D-notice has been waved at newspaper editors and television producers, but with a story that might endanger national security, has been rare. Editors have always had the choice of ignoring Admiral Higgins' advice.

In 1980, Granada Television's *World in Action* produced a programme which technically breached the D-notice system by alleging

weaknesses in British intelligence in Hong Kong. The programme was justified by the television company on the basis that it was in the public interest.

The Defence Press and Broadcasting Committee, which is made up of senior Whitehall officials and representatives of the press and broadcasting organisations, said yesterday that they had discussed how the system might develop "in the light of world events and of government policy on greater openness".

They agreed that there should be a thorough review of the whole system. In September, John Wilson, controller of editorial policy at the BBC and a member of the committee, said the D-notice system was "as benign as a toothless old dog".

He said, however, that he was not in favour of getting rid of the system altogether.

The committee is inviting institutions and organisations to make comments before the end of the year. They are asked to write to: The Secretary, Defence Press and Broadcasting Committee, Room 2235, Ministry of Defence, Whitehall, London, SW1A 2HB.

In his written reply, Mr Hamilton said the committee had decided to "enlarge" its annual review of the D-notices.

"It will consider the purpose, scope and operation of the system in the light of the changed international scene and of the government's commitment to greater openness," Mr Hamilton said.

John Smith

Danube dam project unleashes flood of recriminations



Antall: courting help from the EC

By EYE-ANN PRENTICE AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

APOCALYPTIC scenarios of conflict and tension in Central Europe used to focus on military invasions, perhaps sparked by war in the Balkans. In reality, passions between Hungary and Slovakia have been inflamed by a dangerously escalating dispute over water, electricity, the environment and the protection of nature.

Budapest and Bratislava are fiercely at odds over a proposed hydroelectric dam to divert the Danube, with both sides appealing to John Major, as current President of the EC Council of Ministers, to intercede. Slovakia wants the dam stopped; Hungary is determined to press ahead, partly because it insists the dam will generate needed electricity, partly because the dam is a symbol of the kind of national pride which has taken

centre stage following the collapse of communism. Yesterday, on the eve of Mr Major's talks in London with the leaders of Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Poland — the Visegrad Three — a defiant Slovakia began dumping huge lumps of concrete into the Danube in a bid to make the construction of the dam irreversible.

The foreign ministry in Budapest yesterday conceded that it had "almost no chance" of stopping the dam because work was too far advanced. The London talks were supposed to concentrate on closer political and economic ties between the three central European countries and the EC.

Josef Antall, the Hungarian prime minister, the Czechoslovak deputy prime minister, Antonin Baudys,

Hungary and Slovakia are dangerously at odds in a region already beset by ethnic rivalries. But appeals by both parties for EC backing are likely to fall on deaf ears

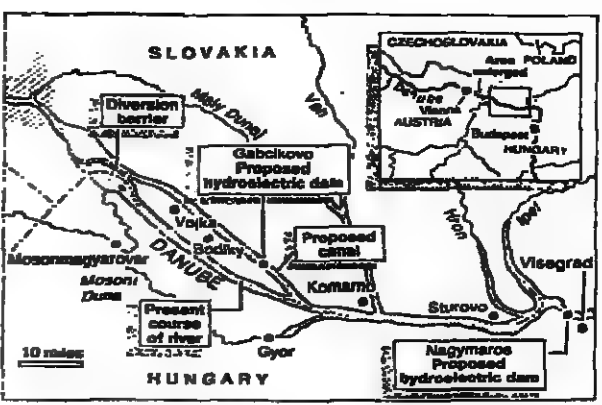
and the Polish prime minister, Hanna Suchocka — leaders of the Visegrad Three alliance — are also meeting other EC leaders.

Slovakia began damming the Danube at the weekend to feed the Gabčíkovo hydroelectric complex. The government of Vladimír Mečiar, the Slovak prime minister, has vowed to complete the scheme before separating from the Czech republic on January 1.

Mr Antall described the Danube dam as "an attack on Hungary's borders". But Slovakia says it must undertake the work or face possible flooding and ecological catastrophe. Hungary pulled out of

the \$1-billion communist era hydro-electric project in 1989, saying it could cause an environmental catastrophe and flood ethnic Hungarian villages in southern Slovakia. Hungary and Slovakia have also accused each other of massing troops at the border and of pursuing nationalist aims.

In Bonn, the German foreign minister, Klaus Kinkel, yesterday urged Czechoslovakia and Hungary to resolve the dispute or risk losing support from the EC. "The row... has sparked a new, utterly unnecessary crisis in Eastern Europe," he said. Herr Kinkel said he had



asked the foreign secretary Douglas Hurd, to urge the two governments once more in the name of the 12 EC nations to search for agreement.

"If the parties concerned take rash decisions and deal with such a serious matter as if it were a fait accompli, the good will (of the EC) will be endangered," he said. "I urgently recommend the governments of Prague and Budapest to accept the suggestions of the international mediation."

János Martonyi, state secretary in Hungary's foreign ministry, said yesterday: "The actual damming is now going on at a very fast speed." The

chances of stopping it were thin, he said, and he was pessimistic that the London talks would be able to strike a last-ditch agreement.

Mr Martonyi added: "It is not easy to build up and develop co-operation with a neighbour country which is seriously violating your border, which is violating your territorial integrity." Hungary insists that the diversion of the river through a 24-mile canal to power the dam violates international law.

The Slovak foreign ministry offered some small comfort to Hungary yesterday, when it announced it would delay starting operations at the power station. But the ministry added it was "convinced the present situation is being unnecessarily dramatised, while unavoidable technical solutions are being presented as fatal political events."

Chancellor hopes to face down critics

Kohl's tax-rise plan angers CDU faithful

FROM PATRICK MOSER IN BONN

AT THE risk of unleashing a storm within his own ranks, Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, announced yesterday a plan to raise taxes and hinted that the levies could be imposed before the 1995 deadline he had set earlier.

He delivered his fighting speech at the opening of a three-day congress of his Christian Democratic Union in Düsseldorf, held against the background of an increasingly grim economic outlook for the country. Herr Kohl's credibility had already taken a severe battering over his U-turn last year on his previous electoral pledge not to increase taxes to pay for German unification.

This time he is being cau-

tious and is addressing the critical issue well in advance of national elections and can only hope the storm will have died down by the time voters are called to the polls in two years' time. The unenthusiastic reception given to the announcement by the 1,000 delegates at the start of the party congress may well be only a slight measure of the confrontation yet to come.

Many CDU members, in rare criticism of their party chairman, voiced a strong opposition to the plan for a "unification" tax increase. Beyond the CDU ranks, Herr Kohl's plans have also been criticised by the other two parties in the ruling coalition,

the Christian Social Union and the Free Democrats. Theo Waigel, the finance minister and CSU chairman, has had some tough words for the proposal already, saying that the entire tax debate was useless and harmful to the economy. The opposition Social Democrats described the plan as another tax lie.

Herr Kohl said that he was determined to put the cards on the table. "I drew so many blows after the 1990 federal election — this will not happen to me again," he said. But he did not say how, or when, the new tax would be levied.

He called for cuts in federal subsidies, savings by the federal and local governments and urged trade unions to make only moderate pay increase demands, saying that the cost of rebuilding the eastern German economy was far higher than anyone had expected.



Kohl remedies: the German chancellor finds a breathing space yesterday at the Christian Democratic Union congress in Düsseldorf

The western German economic picture is also looking far gloomier. The semi-official council of economic advisers will announce today that the economy will grow by only 1.5 per cent or less next year, rather than the 2.5 per cent that had been predicted earlier. Inflation is expected to run at 4 per cent, double the target set by the Bundesbank.

Late yesterday, the CDU re-elected Herr Kohl as party chairman with 856 of the 936 valid votes, or 91.45 per cent of the total.

Meanwhile, Mrs Sadako Ogata, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, awarded a medal to President von Weizsäcker for his commitment to refugees and for his actions against racism, intolerance and xenophobia. Herr von Weizsäcker is one of the few leading political personalities in Germany who visited hostels for asylum seekers that have been the target of right-wing violence. The president will also be the patron of a big demonstration in Berlin on November 8 to protest against neo-Nazi violence.

French confident of backing on Gatt line

FROM TOM WALKER IN LUXEMBOURG

EC AGRICULTURE ministers yesterday failed to lift the cloud which hangs over the world trade talks, and brought the prospect of swinging US sanctions against European farm produce nearer.

In public at least, the ministers refused to isolate France, which is the main protagonist on the Community side in the transatlantic dispute over farm subsidies. How long French protectionism will be tolerated by other EC members remains to be seen, but yesterday Jean-Pierre Soisson, the French agriculture minister, was confident he had won over his colleagues, adding: "There is now broad enough agreement not to conclude a deal before the US presidential elections."

He was supported by Laurits Toernæs, his Danish counterpart, who predicted that no more progress would be made on the trade talks this year, and certainly not before the American poll on Novem-

ber 3. Although Community trade issues can be resolved by majority voting in the Council of Ministers, the thought of isolating France has yet to be entertained. On Sunday night in Paris, Joseph Walsh, the Irish agriculture minister, said his government was not far from the French position.

Economists estimate that a new Gatt deal could swell the global economy by up to \$200 billion a year, helping lift the developed world out of recession. The British presidency of the EC has described a Gatt accord as a priority, but has seen its efforts undone by the sensitivity of the French government to the nation's powerful farm lobby.

The American negotiators have told the Community that they want to see a 24 per cent reduction in the volume of European subsidised exports on world markets, coupled with a reduction of oil-seed production in the EC.

Lithuanian old guard heading for victory

FROM ROLANDAS BARYSAS IN VILNIUS

FORMER communists yesterday looked set for a surprise victory in Lithuania's first post-Soviet parliamentary elections and their leader extended an olive branch to the nationalist opposition.

Returns released by the election commission showed the Democratic Labour Party had won 46.57 per cent of votes and at least 35 of 70 seats in the proportionally-elected half of parliament. In the other half, where 71 deputies are being elected by a first-past-the-post system, the DLP won ten seats out of 14 constituencies where a definite victory has been registered.

Its main opponents from the nationalist Sajudis movement, led by Vytautas Landsbergis, the president and parliament chairman, won 18 seats in the proportionally-elected part of the legislature and only one seat so far in the other part. In 39 other constituencies, where the result of voting was inconclusive, a second round will be held within two weeks, mostly between DLP and Sajudis candidates. Results in 16 others have not yet been counted.

"It was a surprise for me," said Algirdas Brazauskas, the DLP leader and former communist president. "People have given their support to realistic moderate forces."

Dr Landsbergis, a former music professor who led Lithuania's painful battle for independence from Moscow, accepted defeat. "I must state that this party [DLP] has found means to win voters over," he said. The DLP made clear during the election campaign it wanted to replace Dr Landsbergis with its own candidate as parliament speaker.

A popular referendum held simultaneously with parliamentary elections approved in general the Baltic state's new constitution and set the stage for a presidential election early next year, likely to be contested by Dr Landsbergis and Mr Brazauskas. (Reuters)

Town near to capture by Serbs

FROM SARAJEVO

Sarajevo: Bosnian Serbs said they were poised to seize the Muslim-held town of Jajce, while commanders of Bosnia's three warring armies prepared to start face-to-face talks in Sarajevo.

Colonel Milutin Vukelic, a Bosnian Serb officer, told the Serb news agency: "It is a matter of hours before a Serb flag is hoisted over Jajce." His assessment could not be confirmed independently, but Tanjug, the Belgrade-based news agency, said that Serb forces had entered parts of Jajce, a town of about 40,000 people northwest of Sarajevo, and were involved in hand-to-hand fighting in the streets. (Reuters)

Michael Evans, page 14

Spying charge

Bonn: A man who had been a worker for the Social Democrats in West Germany for 20 years was charged with spying for the East German secret police. He had been in charge of the party's foreign affairs files. (AFP)

Lomé paralysed

Lomé: A strike call by opposition parties, trade unions and professional bodies paralysed the Togolese capital in protest at the army's show of strength against interim authorities during which MPs were held at gunpoint. (AFP)

Dancer dies

Paris: The American choreographer Jerome Robbins, a pioneer of modern dance and a former dancing partner of Martha Graham, has died, aged 84, friends said. Andrews settled in Paris in the early 1950s. (AFP)

Old glory

Dallas: Curtis McKinney, a geologist from Knapville, Illinois, claimed that a woman's remains discovered in Texas in 1953 are 11,600 years old, making them the oldest human bones yet found in the Americas. (AP)

Baby talk tops the Paris pops

By CHARLES BREMNER

A FOUR-year-old Paris boy with record-producer parents has been at the top of the French charts for the past two weeks, selling more than 200,000 copies of a novelty song about the rigours of babyhood.

Jordi Lemoine, a blond midjet with a talent for performance, chants a rap-like lyric called *Dur, Dur d'être Bébé* ("It's tough being a baby") on a single and video which have grabbed the attention of young record-buyers in France and Belgium. A British version is to come out before Christmas.

Claude Lemoine, a 28-year-old record producer, and his wife Patricia, a radio announcer, say they discovered their son's musical gifts when he picked up a microphone in their studio and began imitating singers. While bringing delight to teenyboppers, their decision to market his talents has brought some criticism from disc jockeys and pop critics. Allegations of exploitation have been aimed at the video especially because of a scene in which the toddler is shown hugging a little black girl.

Le Who's Who cobbles up a dignitary

By CHARLES BREMNER

IN LATE October the French literary prizes start falling like autumn leaves. From the great Goncourt through slightly lesser awards to obscure provincial laurels, France now boasts so many book awards — 1,500 in all — that ambitious authors are snapping up a guide on how to apply.

First out this year was the Académie française which has just awarded its honour to Franz-Olivier Giesbert for *L'Affreux (The Hideous One)*. This narrowly squeezed out the favourite, Charles de Gaulle by Frédéric Vitoux. The judgment of the immortals has been followed by the traditional round of sniping M Giesbert, or "FOG" as he is known, writes novels in his spare time from editing *Le Figaro*. The newspaper's board, it happens, is headed by an academician, Alain Peyrefitte, and regular columnists include a dais full of his fellow immortals.

From their hallowed palace on the Seine, the academicians have been defending their choice. "We did not spare a thought for the newspaper that M Giesbert belongs to," protested Michel Droit, a man of letters

LETTER FROM PARIS

who is also a long-serving *Le Figaro* writer.

Winning the Académie prize disqualifies you for the gleaming pinnacle of the Goncourt, but by tradition it paves your way to eventual election to the august Académie itself. However, M Giesbert, 43, might prefer one of the two rival schemes for a grandiose new academy. This would be an assembly of the most illustrious French but of the "greatest minds" of the

world, or of Europe. It would, of course, be based in Paris.

A more attainable honour than membership of the French academy is inclusion in *Le Who's Who in France*. The new edition, out this week, leaves out 507 former names and includes 711 new ones, bringing chapin to many. The new arrivals include Claire Chazal, a television presenter, and the restaurateur Pierre Troisgros, but the biggest surprise is that 15 of the 20,000 biographies are fiction.

Antoine Hébrard, the editor, says his team invented the lives of seemingly worthy men of letters, academics, and businessmen as bait to trap pirates and mailing services. They attached the biographies to consenting real names, including M Hébrard's former concubine. She, for example, features as a male captain of industry who went to the right schools. Another name is a Paris cobbler. One phantom dignitary lists his hobbies as "collecting useless papers"

and another once worked as a "lollipop taster in a clandestine sweet factory".

The *Who's Who* team has most fun making up literary awards and honours, says M Hébrard. One is decorated with the "Chevalier de l'Étoile Noire (Knight of the Black Star)" and another won the apparently fabulous prize of "Étoile du Grand Marnier". "These are mostly people with no responsibility, has-beens," says M Hébrard, and they work wonders. Anyone who lists these names or sends an offer through the post is immediately warned that they have illegally lifted the list.

When it comes to checking people's accounts of their lives, the French *Who's Who* is rigorous. Entrants have to submit copies of birth certificates and proof of academic credentials. The favourite ground for pretension is bogus nobility. M Hébrard says: "There have been gentlemen who have been 'counts' for 20 years and our committee has checked, and we tell them, 'you don't have the right to the title', so we do away with it. When they read their entry they find themselves just Monsieur et Madame but we never get any complaint."

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Israel strikes back at Lebanon targets

Rabin says attacks jeopardising talks

By RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

YITZHAK Rabin, the Israeli prime minister, sharply criticised his Arab negotiating partners yesterday, blaming Syria, Lebanon and the Palestinians for the sudden spiral of violence which left six Israeli soldiers dead on Sunday.

As Israeli gunners and helicopter gunships pounded Shia Muslim villages in southern Lebanon, Mr Rabin said that Israel would respond with a "list of iron" to any attacks on its security. On Sunday, five Israeli soldiers died when their vehicle was hit by a roadside explosive charge in southern Lebanon, placed by pro-Israeli fundamentalist Hezbollah guerrillas. Another soldier was shot dead by a Palestinian militant of the Hamas organisation in the West Bank town of Hebron.

Speaking in the Knesset, Mr Rabin blamed Lebanon and Syria for allowing Hezbollah guerrillas to operate freely against Israeli positions in southern Lebanon, while talking peace with Israel.

li delegations in Washington. He attacked the Palestinians for endangering the peace process, and gave a warning that they would be left with nothing unless they halted their campaign of violence.

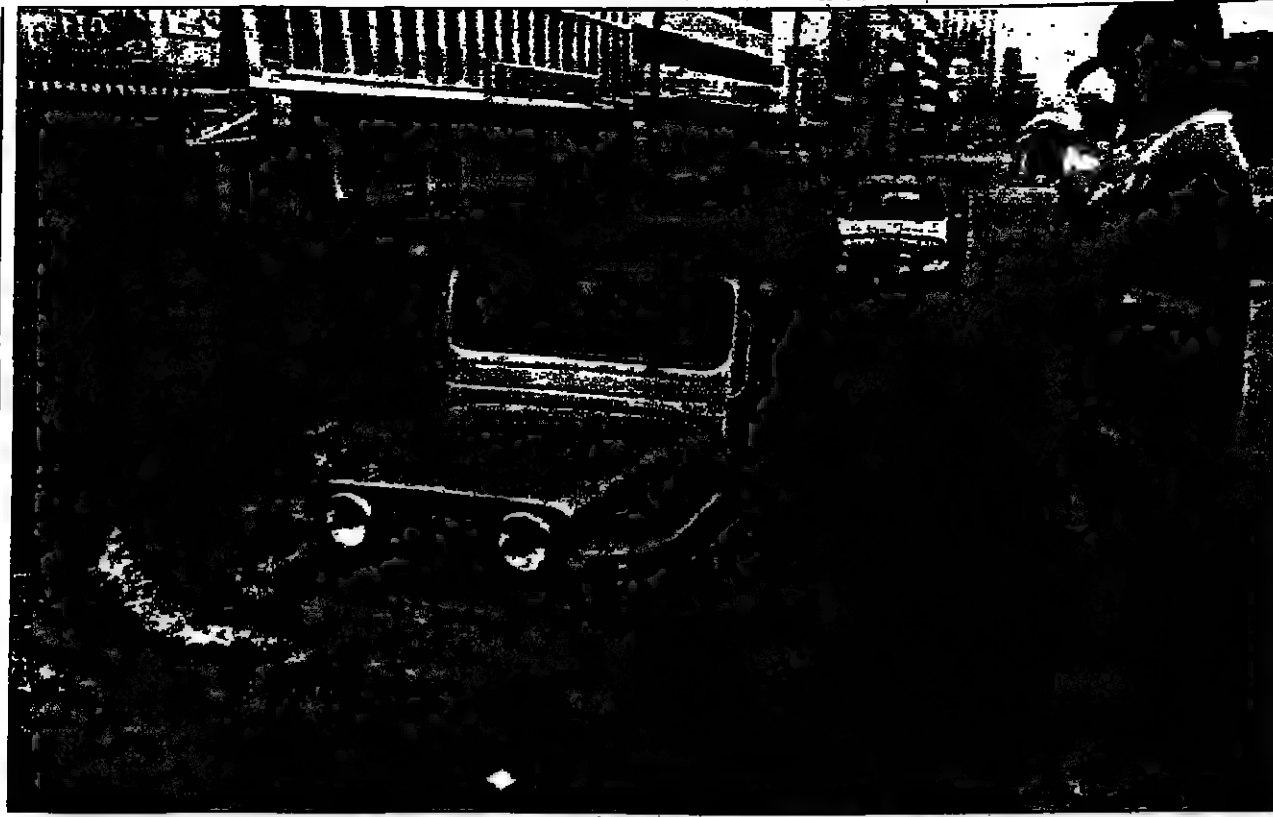
"If you continue to inflame hatred and terrorism, if you continue to pull the trigger—a pity, a pity. Yours will be a bitter fate," said Mr Rabin, who is also defence minister.

The outburst appeared to reflect genuine frustration in the Labour-led administration which, after 100 days in office, has failed to move the peace talks forward significantly and is now struggling to contain the growing violence, which has led to several demonstrations against the government. Mr Rabin's warnings and Israel's military response did little to appease right-wing hardliners who have accused his administration of provoking violence because of its conciliatory attitude at the negotiating table. Ron Nachman, the mayor of the West

Bank Jewish settlement of Ariel and a Likud member of the Knesset, accused Mr Rabin of going back on his election pledge to safeguard the country's security.

Mr Rabin's dilemma has been exacerbated by rising tensions within his government, which faces the first of several no-confidence motions in the coming days. The Labour-led government, with a slim 62-seat majority in the 120-member assembly, is showing signs of strain because of a feud between the two junior coalition partners, the left-wing Meretz party and the ultra-orthodox Shas.

After yesterday's raids by the helicopter gunships, Israeli planes attacked guerrilla targets in southern Lebanon, supplementing shelling by artillery and tanks in retaliation for Sunday's guerrilla operation. Jets fired rockets at targets in the Hezbollah-held village of Arab Salim and in villages on a ridge southeast of Sidon.



Flooded with offers: residents watch four-wheel-drive taxis negotiating an inundated street in Manila yesterday, in the hope that they will stall and need to pay for a push, after Typhoon Colleen hit the Philippines.

Winds gusting to 75 mph struck the eastern coastline just north of the capital, but appeared to have spared the devastated areas around the volcanic Mount Pinatubo. A spokeswoman for the Philippines volcanology and

seismology institute said rains over the mountain did not appear heavy enough to trigger mudflows.

The storm brought heavy rain to the Manila area from late on Sunday night until after dawn yesterday. Schools, government offices and businesses in the capital were closed because of flooding. Trading was halted for the day on the Manila stock exchange, and Philippine Airlines cancelled international flights. As the typhoon moved into the

South China Sea, a South Korean ore carrier was reported missing and feared lost in the western Pacific.

The Lloyd's casualty reporting service in London said that the *Daejang Hoang*, with a crew of 25 South Koreans, disappeared after being reported close to the track of the typhoon southwest of Guam four days ago. The vessel was on its way to Mizushima in Japan with 122,720 tonnes of iron ore. (AP, Reuters)

Tourists get Upper Egypt warnings

From CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN CAIRO

THE embassies of Britain, the United States and Australia warned their citizens yesterday to keep out of Muslim extremist strongholds in Upper Egypt, where tourists have become targets for fundamentalists.

The three embassies said the advice did not apply to the main tourist sites in Upper Egypt, such as Luxor and Assuan. The warnings came despite efforts by the Egyptian government to play down the new Islamist campaign against its tourist industry.

The advice came after the killing of a Briton and the wounding of two others when their safari vehicle was attacked last week near the town of Dayut, about 170 miles south of Cairo. On Sunday, three Russian tourists were snatched by a Muslim militant in Port Said.

The extreme el-Gamaa el-Islamiya, which had warned tourists in September to avoid Upper Egypt, claimed responsibility for the Dayut ambush. It said that tourists had become its second priority target after permanent Egyptians in a campaign to secure an Islamic state.

Although Luxor has been excluded from the travel advice, the Karnak temple has been attacked by Islamic bombers and a tourist bus was bombed near the city. The Islamic extremists have said their campaign extends to pharaonic antiquities, which they dismiss as "pagan relics".

The American embassy said yesterday: "The government has cautioned American citizens against travelling to Menya and Assut provinces, particularly the town of Dayut and surrounding areas." Dayut has been the scene of repeated clashes between Islamic militants and the security forces and Egypt's Coptic Christian minority in recent months.

The British embassy said that it had issued a "travel advice" to its citizens emphasising that there have been repeated violent incidents in Upper Egypt in the past two months. On October 2, militants opened fire on a Nile cruise boat carrying 140 German tourists, injuring three members of the Egyptian crew.

Yesterday, the police claimed that they had arrested a youth aged 17 suspected of involvement in last week's attack that killed Sharon Hill, 28, a nurse from Gloucester. They said that the secondary school pupil was being questioned after tourists from the attacked vehicle picked him out as the youth they saw whistling a signal to hidden gunmen. A police source said that the security forces were still hunting two men suspected of carrying out the ambush.

Inkatha 'is facing genocide'

From WILLIAM MACLEAN IN JOHANNESBURG

THE Inkatha Freedom Party said yesterday that genocide was being used in South Africa against its followers after the killing at the weekend of at least 20 people.

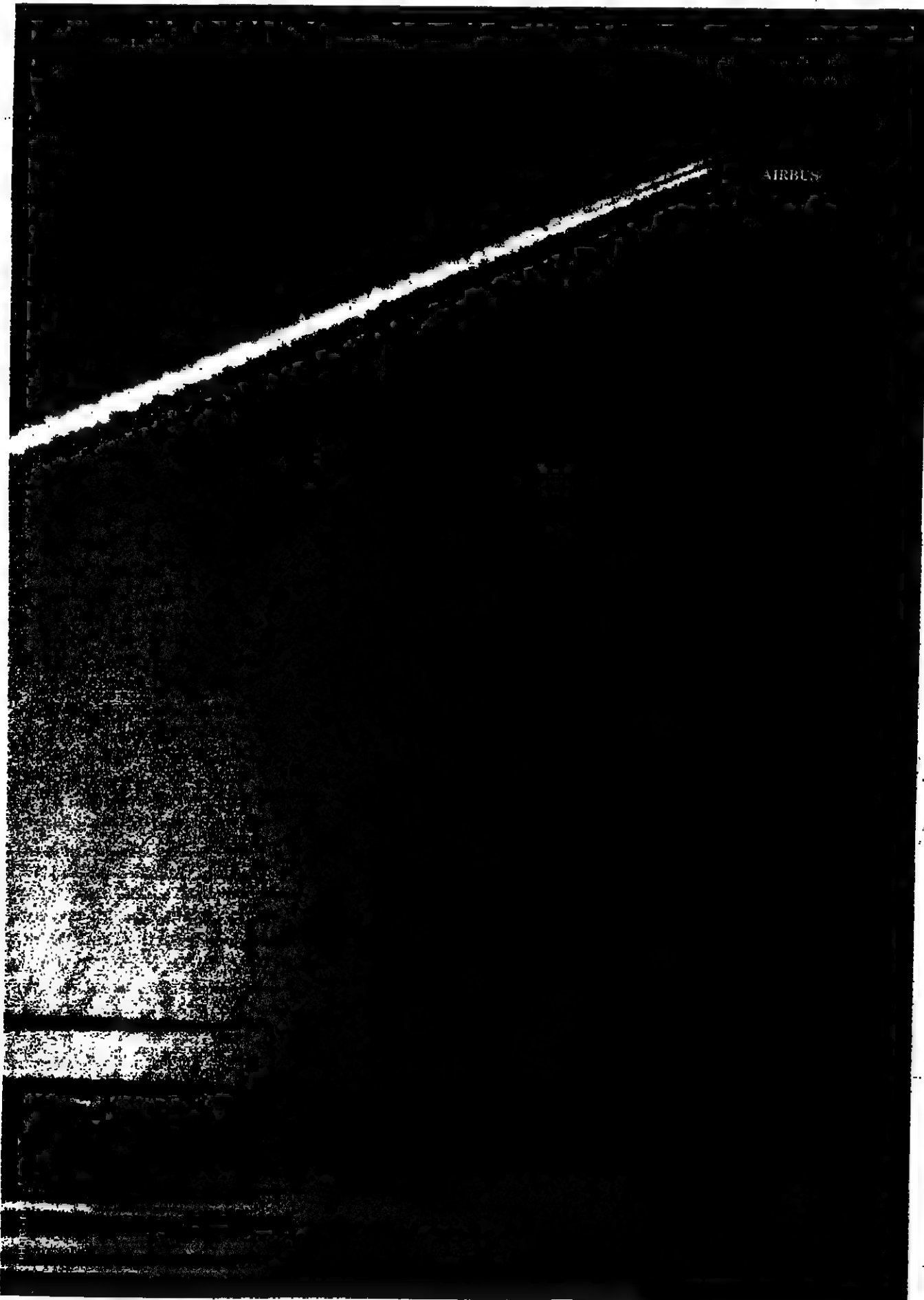
President de Klerk expressed shock at the killings and appealed to Mangosuthu Buthe, the Inkatha leader, and his main rival, Nelson Mandela, the president of the African National Congress, to hold peace talks.

Political analysts said that the two mass killings at the weekend in Natal could provoke yet more violence in the province, the scene of endemic fighting between Inkatha and the ANC.

Women and children and supporters of the Zulu-based Inkatha were among those shot on Saturday in Mposhini reserve by men armed with AK47 rifles. Inkatha said 24 people were killed, while police put the figure at 20. At least six ANC supporters were killed by unidentified attackers in Polweni township near by on Friday evening.

Inkatha said there were suspicions that the ANC's armed wing carried out the Mposhini raid. "The killings certainly follow a pattern of massacres in which ANC people have been involved," The ANC said that the attackers should be brought to justice. (Reuters)

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also stimulated further
cooperation in the
development of joint
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As never before, the
continued growth of the
French and British aerospace
industries now depends
on maintaining this level
of cooperation.

AEROSPATIALE

ACHIEVEMENT HAS A NAME

A little paranoia keeps you saner

By MICHAEL HAMLYN

IN CAPE Town they call it Johannesburg paranoia, but just because you are paranoid does not mean you are not being followed.

My colleague, Ross Dunn, who writes for *The Daily Telegraph* and *The Age* in Melbourne, was snugged at the weekend in the centre of town in a crowded street outside a cinema, thronged with people. It was the fourth time he has been snugged in the city since he arrived three years ago.

The United Nations peace observers have fared even worse. Ten of them make their headquarters in one of the two posh hotels in the centre of town. Four of them have been snugged only yards from the hotel's front door. They arrived here a month ago.

When you first move to Johannesburg your neighbours vie with one another to tell horror stories of the awful things that happened to them or their friends at the hands of robbers or burglars. The daily papers (particularly the more right-leaning ones) report each day on the farmers who are found bludgeoned in their isolated homesteads or the pensioners left lying in their kitchens

after a visit from local bandits.

Now that summer is upon us and the temperatures are hitting the mid-80s every day and Sunday lunch has moved outdoors, the conversation around the *braai*, the South African barbecue, turns regularly to the security devices available to homeowners.

The insurance company will not pay out on their unless there are burglar bars on all windows and doors, and your house begins to look like a jail. Most depressing of all is the iron-barred gate that isolates the sleeping quarters from the rest of the house, the so-called "cape gate".

A friend has now left Johannesburg and moved to Hermannus in the Cape, a delightful seaside resort. His family never even lock their house, far less put bars on the windows.

However, all cannot be sweetness and ease, even in the Cape. Robert Raschke, the correspondent for Australian Broadcasting, was hijacked at gunpoint at the corner of Adderley and Longmarket streets in the heart of town. He was kept for three and a half hours before being robbed.

Clinton



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Clinton win would strain special relationship with Britain



Christopher: possible Secretary of State

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

AFTER 12 years of symbiotic conservative governments in Britain and America, the "special relationship" will face new tests if Bill Clinton becomes US president next Tuesday.

The Democrat has taken positions on several issues during the campaign that conflict with British interests, and London has already begun expressing its concerns to Mr Clinton's subordinates. According to his manifesto, *Putting people first*, Mr Clinton would support congressional legislation to revoke China's preferential trading status in the absence of drastic reforms. That prospect may send shivers down the octagonal spines of Peking's gerontocracy, but also alarms Hong Kong, which would lose an estimated \$16 billion (£9.9 billion) in business each year and up to 60,000 jobs.

Mr Clinton told New York's big Irish-American lobby that he would appoint a peace envoy to Northern Ireland if Westminster-brokered talks failed, and would probably give Gerry Adams, the Sinn Féin leader, a visa to enter America for a visit would undoubtedly be more than a vacation. He would urge state governors to adopt the MacBride principles, which compel US companies in Northern Ireland to adopt stringent measures to avoid anti-Catholic discrimination. He would attach weight to Amnesty International and Helsinki Watch reports on abuses "by the security forces as well as other forces in Northern Ireland." Because of the special relationship, "we've been a little too reluctant to express our feelings in a positive way", he said. But

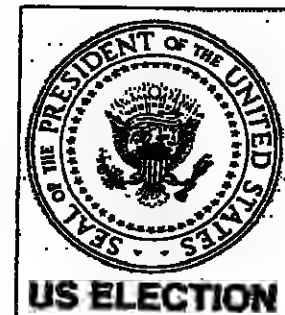
■ The fourth of a series of articles examining US election issues looks at the possible effect of a Democratic victory on foreign policy and British interests

London would consider any of the above unfriendly acts. Britain's future ability to test and therefore modernise its nuclear deterrent may well rest on next week's result. Mr Clinton's manifesto suggests he would support recent congressional legislation barring all nuclear testing on US soil after 1996. Britain has nowhere else to test.

Mr Clinton also plans to extract \$45 billion over four years from foreign corporations in America, many of them British, by cracking down on alleged tax evasions. Independent analysts believe those evasions occur on nothing like the scale suggested.

Finally he has suggested he would pursue investigations into possible Iranian and Syrian complicity in the Lockerbie bombing. The Bush administration, with London's apparent agreement, has said that it has found no evidence of such complicity, blaming Libya alone.

For the most part, foreign policy has barely featured in a campaign dominated by America's domestic problems. Mr Clinton famously devoting just 72 words to the subject in his convention speech. But where it has surfaced, the candidates' relative positions have been surprising. This year it has been the



US ELECTION

Democrat accusing the Republican of smuggling up to communist leaders, the Democrat who has argued for more robust military intervention in Bosnia. Mr Clinton contends that Mr Bush has failed to respond to the end of the Cold war. America no longer needed to support authoritarian regimes just because they were anti-Soviet or to subordinate its interests and values to the preservation of stability. He

has promised much stronger support for nascent democracy movements. "From the Baltics to Beijing, from Sarajevo to South Africa, time after time this president has sided with the status quo over democratic change, with familiar tyrants rather than those who would overthrow them, with the old geography of repression rather than the new map of freedom," he said, ignoring that more than 40 countries have embraced democracy during the Bush years.

Mr Clinton has pledged to fight much harder for America's economic interests overseas and "change the State Department's culture so that economics is no longer a poor cousin to old-school diplomacy". America had to be economically strong to provide global leadership, and he would create an economic security council akin to the National Security Council.

The end of the Cold war has also healed divisions between Democratic hawks and the doves who feared that any overseas military intervention would quickly escalate into a superpower conflict. This has enabled Mr Clinton to evade the usual charge that Democrats are "soft on defence". He has promised to use military force if necessary, where possible through international coalitions.

He has also promised to push forward the Middle East peace talks, but the Arab countries would not trust his administration as they do Mr Bush's. Mr Clinton is staunchly pro-Israel.

Possible secretaries of state in a Clinton administration include Warren Christopher, deputy Secretary of State under President Carter, and Lee Hamilton, a senior member of the House foreign affairs committee.

Perot accuses Bush team of dirty tricks

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

■ The billionaire's conspiracy theory has backfired badly. Most commentators described his claims as "cranky"

BILL Clinton, clearly perturbed by Ross Perot's late surge, has for the first time begun to attack the Texas independent, but his subtle change of tactics was almost completely overshadowed yesterday by Mr Perot's bizarre new allegations of Republican dirty tricks.

In a Sunday night television programme Mr Perot claimed he had dropped out of the presidential race for 11 weeks to protect his daughter, Carolyn. He said the Bush campaign had been planning to disrupt her wedding in August and to produce doctored photographs of her head on somebody else's body.

"I finally concluded that I, as a father, who adores his children, could not take that risk. And since the wedding was on a finite date, I made the decision that I would step aside," he said. Another of Mr Perot's four daughters, Suzanne McGee, told *The New York Times* that her father believed the Republicans were going to spread the story that Carolyn was a lesbian.

Mr Perot further claimed to have obtained a videotape of a senior Republican official meeting a former CIA officer on a Dallas park bench to discuss the wiretapping of his Dallas headquarters and ways to sabotage his company's computer stock trading programme. "I could not believe that anyone representing the President of the US would stoop to these lows... This is Watergate II," he said.

Senior Bush campaign officials ridiculed the charges. Martin Fitzwater, the White House spokesman, setting the tone by calling them "preposterous", "crazy" and "total nonsense", but Mr Perot appeared to renew them yesterday.

Striding into the middle of a press briefing at his headquarters, he angrily denounced the media's "twisted, slanted" coverage of his statements the previous night and said the

fact that President Bush had cancelled a meeting with him to discuss them suggested they were true. For good measure he added that an unidentified hit team had once been chased from his estate.

But the billionaire said he could not prove his allegations, which were totally at odds with his stated reasons for dropping out on July 16. He said at that time that the Democratic Party had revitalised itself, he could not win and did not want to be just a spoiler.

Some commentators suggested the whole bizarre episode was an attempt by Mr Perot to win back earlier supporters disillusioned by his abrupt departure from the race, but the tactic had backfired badly. Most US newspapers yesterday alluded to Mr Perot's well-documented obsession with conspiracy theories. Few gave much credence to the charges and most painted him as cranky.

Mr Clinton, recalling that the Texan had once investigated the business affairs of the Bush sons, told one rally that "now we've got this bizarre situation where Bush and Perot have accused each other of investigating each other's children... I want to investigate your children, their problems, their premises, their future."

In Michigan, Mr Clinton portrayed himself as the only practical alternative to Mr Bush, the only candidate who had ever balanced a budget, taken on lobbyists, and made a "really good choice" for vice-president.

Perot charges, page 1
Anthony Howard, page 16
Bush photograph, page 20

Canadian reforms head for the rocks

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN MONTREAL

CANADIANS went to the polls yesterday to vote on a package of political reforms designed to end months of constitutional wrangling and debate that have left the country bitter, divided and bored.

But the latest polls indicate that the so-called Charlottetown accord will be rejected in French-speaking Quebec and the western province of British Columbia. Alberta and Saskatchewan also appear likely to vote "no", and in Ontario, the Canadian industrial heartland, surveys have been indicating a dead heat.

Any constitutional changes must be approved by all ten provincial legislatures, and it is highly unlikely that MPs would press ahead with the package if it were rejected by their constituents. Brian Mulroney, the Canadian prime minister and chief proponent of the "yes" vote, has said that a rejection by any one province would signal the death of the accord.

The reform process, concluded in August at Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, began as an effort to head off the threat of secession by francophone Quebec but gradually expanded to offer concessions to a wide array of

competing interest groups. The result is a comprehensive but unwieldy document that has fully satisfied few, angered some and confused many.

By its terms, Quebec would be recognised as a "distinct society" within the Canadian confederation, its language and customs would be protected, and a quarter of the seats in the Canadian House of Commons would be granted to the province in perpetuity. The upper house, the Senate, would be reformed in deference to demands from the western provinces and Canada's 700,000 indigenous peoples would be guaranteed the "inherent right to self-government".

Many in Quebec believe the package does not offer sufficient safeguards for their jealously guarded French culture and identity. Other provinces argue that Quebec has unfairly been singled out for special treatment and Canada's Indian and Inuit (Eskimo) tribes are divided between those who regard the reforms as a constitutional breakthrough and others who resent the intrusion of the Canadian government into what they already regard as their sovereign territory.

'Betrayal' by third man irks Oregon

BY BEN MACINTYRE

The state of Oregon, where the western prairies meet the forests and mountains of the Pacific coast, is a place of contrasts and contradictions.

The urban sprawl of cities such as Portland, Eugene and Salem alternates with swaths of semi-desert and dense woodland. And die-hard liberal Democrats live cheek-by-jowl with traditionally bedrock Republicans.

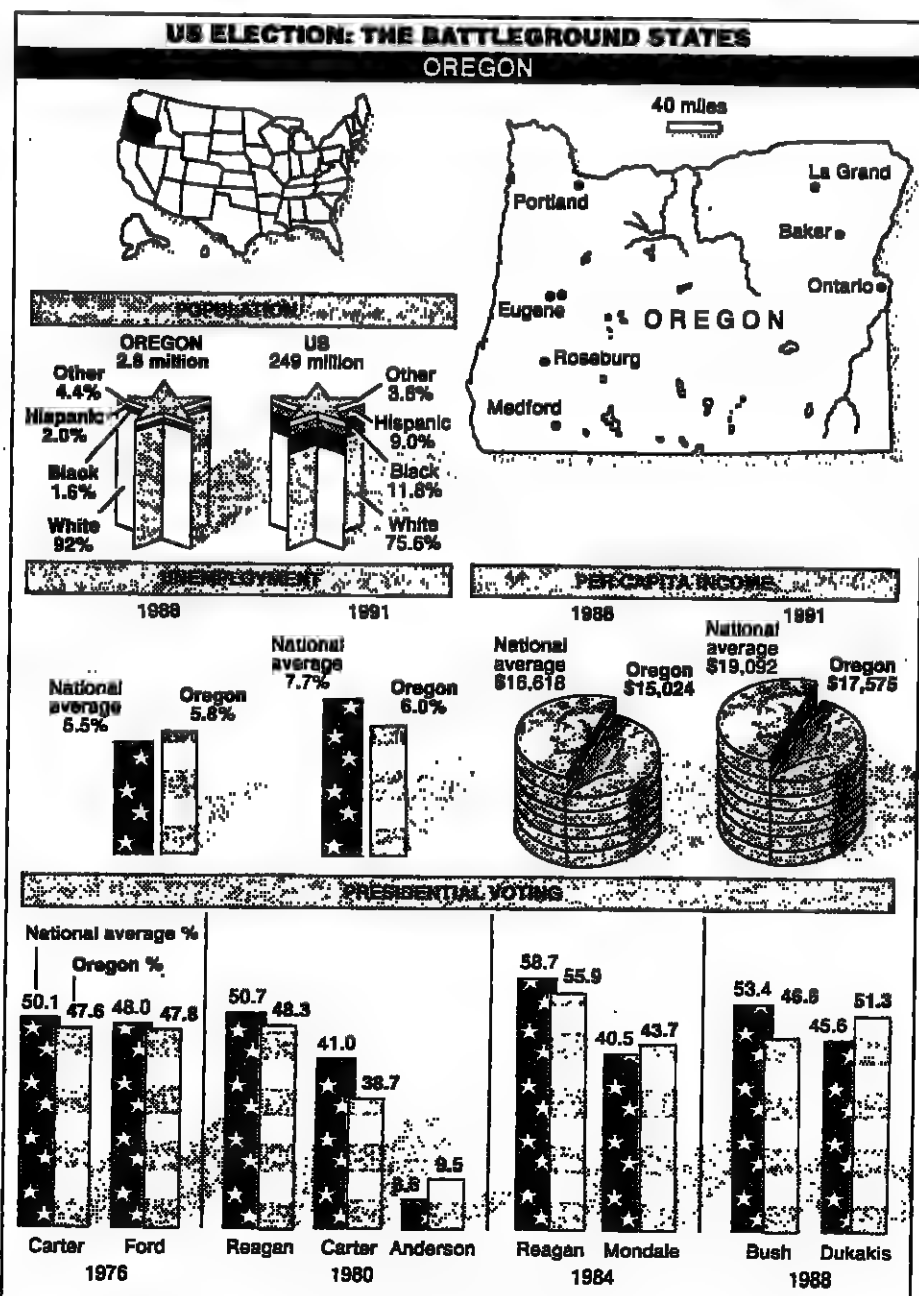
Oregon has the fewest churches of any state in America, but a hard core of politically adept Christian fundamentalists. Ecological awareness is probably more developed here than anywhere in the country, but those who put jobs before the environment are also more entrenched. Oregonians see themselves as a distinct breed, less worldly than those to the south and more cosmopolitan than their northern neighbours.

A state with a long liberal tradition in government is voting this year on one of the most liberal measures to appear on a state ballot: the notorious "Measure 9", which would declare homosexuality unnatural and perverse and remove constitutional safeguards for homosexual men and women.

But it is a sign of how far Bill Clinton is in the ascendancy that, for all the conflicting forces at play in Oregon, the state looks certain to vote overwhelmingly for the Democratic candidate. The latest opinion polls give Mr Clinton 59 per cent of the vote, a lead of some 25 percentage points over President Bush.

In every poll in the past 11 months, the gap has never dropped below 15 points and even surveys by Bob Packwood, the incumbent Republican senator, have shown the Clinton-Al Gore ticket more than 20 per cent ahead, with the result that Mr Packwood is studiously distancing himself from the Bush campaign and Democratic candidates for senate and congress are scrambling for a ride on the Clinton campaign's coat-tails.

In 1988, Oregon was one of



only ten states (with neighbouring Washington) to vote for Michael Dukakis, the Democratic candidate. Since then demographic, political and above all economic changes have accelerated a trend towards the Democrats and eroded Republican support for while this state has weathered the recession better than some, the economy is still frail.

But what seemed a foregone conclusion for the Democrats was, albeit briefly, thrown into doubt by the candidature of Ross Perot, whose support during the May primary in Oregon was spectacular. Mr Perot clipped many votes from the Republicans but still more from the Democrats. Although some urban liberals flirted briefly with the Texan businessman,

it was predominantly in the suburban and rural areas that Mr Perot struck a chord.

Mr Perot's political shooting from the hip evoked widespread admiration in one-gas-pump timber towns such as Lyons in the foothills of the Cascade Mountains, where calling a spade a spade is the main form of conversation. "I thought, here is a man I can trust," Sally Hamilton said as she herded three children down Lyons's main (indeed, only) street. "He looked like my Pa." Many residents speak with anger of the day when Mr Perot decided to drop out of the race. At the town soda fountain, they talk bitterly of betrayal. "If he ain't straight before he gets

elected," an older man wearing dungarees and mutton-chop whiskers said, "what'd he be like afterwards?"

With Mr Perot now back in the race and running hard, some of the lost ground may be retrievable, but in Oregon at least it is probably too late to have much effect on the outcome. Mr Clinton's understandable confidence is perhaps shown in his decision this week to make only one rapid campaign stop in Oregon in the course of his western tour.

Oregon's seven electoral votes may make little difference in the final result, but set in the context of what seems to be a general trend towards the Democrats on the West Coast, the portents for the Republicans are gloomy in the extreme.

Student exam cheat is jailed

FROM JAMIE DETTMER IN WASHINGTON

A STUDENT who was sentenced to six months imprisonment last week for lying to a court about how he cheated in a university entrance examination is appealing for a reduction in his term.

Laurence Adler, 19, who is the first American student to be prosecuted in a university cheating case, admitted last April that he had paid a friend \$200 (£125) to take his college entrance exam for Syracuse University. But before confessing, he had brought a civil action against the country's Educational Testing Service after it had cancelled his fraudulent exam scores.

Adler, who is now in his first term at Florida's Lynn University, is no stranger to publicity. He received world-wide press attention at the age of 14 for his precocious business acumen.

The court in Rockville, Maryland, heard last week from character witnesses how fame went to his head and how he had founded several firms, made tens of thousands of dollars and lived the life of a high-roller with a chauffeur-driven limousine.

The court heard from Adler's sister, Sharon, that their father's suicide had forced the whole family to work hard. She said that in his teens, her brother was "living the lifestyle of a 40-year-old".

According to a psychologist who gave evidence, Adler was "manipulative and crying out for love". He had learned a "lot of bad things at a tender age" from unscrupulous business partners and two "substitute father figures" who had sexually abused him, said Dr Harry Olson.

Matthew Campbell, deputy state attorney, told Judge Paul Weinstein that Adler should be punished. "He manipulated all of us who believe in the laws he has scorned," Judge Weinstein agreed, unmoved by Adler's problems. He said that the six-month jail sentence and three years probation was designed to send a message to all students. "Frankly, Mr Adler, you have been conning people all your life," the judge said. "The con comes to an end today."

UK admits secret exchanges

London: Whitehall denied yesterday that a secret deal had been made with China over Hong Kong's constitutional future. But it admitted that British ministers and officials carried on extensive unpublished diplomatic exchanges with Peking in 1990 on the arrangements for the 1995 elections in Hong Kong (Michael Binyon writes).

Officials insist that there was no secret deal, but say it is open to doubt whether the two sides came to an agreement. While emphasising that Lu Ping, head of China's Hong Kong and Macau office, is taking a narrow interpretation of the exchanges, they admit that he is not lying. He had spoken of a secret agreement for the 1995 direct elections.

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Kelly buried

Würzburg: Petra Kelly, 44, the founder of the German Green party, who was killed by her long-time companion and fellow activist, Gert Bastian, 69, before he took his own life, was buried next to her beloved stepister. (AP)

Forces pull out

Dushanbe: Rebel forces withdrew from the centre of the Tajik capital, Dushanbe, but clashes continued in the suburbs as state radio reported that efforts to restore the ousted leader, Rakhmon Nabiyev, were defeated. (AFP)

Trawler sinks

Moscow: A trawler with more than 200 people on board sank ten miles off the coast of Abkhazia, western Georgia. Black Sea fleet warships picked up 36 survivors. (AFP)

Singer dies

Los Angeles: Roger Miller, the country music singer-songwriter, has died of cancer, aged 56. He was best known for his hit *King of the Road*, which won him Grammy awards in 1965. (Reuters)

Panic measure

Cairo: Rumours that the world is due to end tomorrow are so widely believed that Egypt's leading Islamic figure has been forced to try to quell the hysteria.

Obituary, page 19

UNITED NATIONS TROOPS IN BOSNIA

On the hazardous road to peace

ILLUSTRATION: GEOFFREY SMIS

As British soldiers arrive on their mission to bring humanitarian relief to the Balkans. Michael Evans examines the tasks and dangers that await them

Arriving at Split from Germany on board an American transport plane, the first 1,000 British soldiers assigned to Operation Grapple, codename for Britain's contribution to the United Nations' humanitarian relief effort in Bosnia, will be met by bewildering contrasts. Wearing flak jackets and helmets, the first batch, due in today, will seem like an invading force to the residents of the pleasant Croatian port.

The soldiers, who have been gearing themselves for a war zone, will not have long to enjoy the peace and relative prosperity of Split. Once they move up through the winding mountainous roads to Vitez in central Bosnia, where the British headquarters is being set up, the picture will change dramatically. Not only has Vitez been trembling with the sound of gunfire, but the Croats and Muslims, who are to be the British soldiers' neighbours throughout the freezing winter months, have now begun to attack each other.

Politicians and military remain confident that British troops can play a worthwhile part in relieving suffering in Bosnia. The impact on the public at home of the Royal Marines giving food and help to thousands of Kurds trapped in the mountains in northern Iraq last year proved that humanitarian relief operations can be a legitimate and positive use of Britain's armed forces. However, the Iraqi troops, defeated by the war against the US-led coalition, did not pose a serious threat. In Bosnia, the threat of gunfire, deliberately aimed at British troops or not, will lurk around every street corner and at every road-block.

Britain is sending 2,400 troops to Bosnia. The 1st Battalion The Cheshire Regiment, the main force for Operation Grapple, is due to fly in from Germany from November 9 and will be ready to run aid convoys from mid-November. Winter conditions will hamper the relief effort and, as the time draws nearer, the military and political picture in Bosnia is becoming increasingly complex. Croat and Serb forces are consolidating their gains, while the Muslims, already outgunned by the Serbs, have lost trust in their Croat allies and are attacking them as a desperate last resort. Bosnia's Muslim-led government is determined to keep the former Yugoslav republic intact as a unitary state, in spite of Serb calls for ethnic autonomy.

For the British contingent and the troops from nine other countries contributing to the UN's protection force in Bosnia, called Unprofor 2, the bewildering hotchpotch of inter-ethnic feuding has created an environment in which soldiers will not know where the next battle will occur and between which ethnic groups.

The most important piece of equipment to protect the soldiers will be the 30-ton Warrior infantry fighting vehicles, which are due to arrive at Split on November 9. Seven fully-equipped infantrymen can fit in the back of the vehicles, which have been fitted with extra protection plates of Chobham armour, as they were for the Gulf war. It is identical to the armour on Challenger tanks and consists of several layers of nylon micromesh bonded by sheets of titanium alloy and other layers of metal and ceramics.

The Warriors are armed with 30mm Rarden cannons, which can fire 900 armour-piercing rounds a minute, and a 7.62 Hughes Chain gun capable of giving the same weight of fire as 40 second world war infantrymen. They can also do up to 50mph in drive and reverse, crucial for evading sudden attacks.

The main reason for confidence, however, is the arrival of Nato on the scene. Now nearly 7,000 troops from ten countries, all members of the Nato military alliance, apart from France, are in the process of taking up residence in Bosnia under the UN flag, and, significantly, under the command of Major General Philippe Morillon, a Frenchman, in whom Field Marshal Sir Richard Vincent, the British chief of the defence staff, has absolute confidence. Most will be in Bosnia by the middle of next month.

They bring with them standard

Nato procedures, operational familiarity and a mobile command headquarters, backed by American intelligence and communications systems. The infantry battalions are being supplied by Britain, France, Canada and Spain, all of which will be protected by armoured vehicles.

The French have learnt tough lessons in Bosnia and Croatia. About 2,600 soldiers have been deployed since April with Unprofor 1, the first UN troops sent to keep the peace in Croatia after the ceasefire in the former Yugoslav republic. The French have been based at Serb-occupied Gracac in Croatia and at Sarajevo. Eight French soldiers have been killed so far, although three died in car accidents, and nearly 50 injured. The new French infantry battalion, to be based at Bihać, will have light armoured tanks equipped with

hospital team will be in the front line at Vitez.

However, the experience of Northern Ireland and, in particular, the bandit country of South Armagh, will prove invaluable. British troops are used to mounting patrols in isolated countryside, although they will be less prepared for the expected Siberian weather conditions. Once the Cheshires become accustomed to the supply routes and the patchwork of danger zones, they will use their Ulster experience to get aid through to the victims of the war as best they can, although there are serious doubts whether they will succeed in reaching Tuzla and Doboj, the two towns on the northern boundary of the British-assigned relief area because it will mean crossing Serb lines.

The mission in Bosnia is likely to be the first of many new peacekeeping roles for troops from Britain and other Nato countries with the end of the Cold war. The implications of the changing world are already being felt at the Army Staff College at Camberley in Surrey, where peacekeeping studies are now part of the syllabus. Next year an extra week has been added to the course to include lectures by senior UN commanders.

How long British troops will be involved in Bosnia is unclear. The military advice to the government was that a time limit of one year should be set. The government, however, decided against a 12-month deadline, presumably to avoid sending the wrong political signals to the other countries contributing troops. Operation Grapple, therefore, is an open-ended commitment which could force the government next year to revise its Options for Change plan to reduce the army by 25 per cent.

There are expected to be casualties and a full mobile army surgical hospital team will be in the front line

90mm cannon and more than 130 "mine-proof" vehicles.

The British troops will be under no illusion about the risks they face. Even the small reconnaissance party which examined potential convoy routes earlier this month came under fire three times. Under the rules of engagement agreed by the cabinet, the soldiers will be able to fire back. However, as the incident in Vitez demonstrated last week when a small British reconnaissance party drove into a battle between Croats and Muslims, soldiers caught in crossfire have only one way to protect themselves and that is to withdraw as fast as possible. They have no right to intervene in street battles and no mandate to force their way past obstinate warlords. Nevertheless, there are expected to be casualties and a full mobile army surgical

British morale is tempered in the fire

With the troops as they experience their first taste of the confusion of a society at war with itself

commander of 35 Engineer Regiment. That incident last week was the first time that soldiers from the British contingent who recently arrived in Croatia have encountered fire in anger. But a military source said that troops in earlier reconnaissance parties had been caught in shooting several times.

The soldiers did not return fire. Under the UN rules of engagement they can fire back only in self defence if they believe they are directly under attack and must return fire to save lives and extricate themselves.

Col Field said the incident would not affect the will of the British UN

contingent to carry out their work escorting aid convoys. "Our mission is to build camps and get the roads up," he said. "This shows we can achieve something."

Perhaps paradoxically last week's experiences have boosted morale. Privately, some soldiers fear that it will collapse if casualties are taken but now their attention is focused on the difficult job in hand.

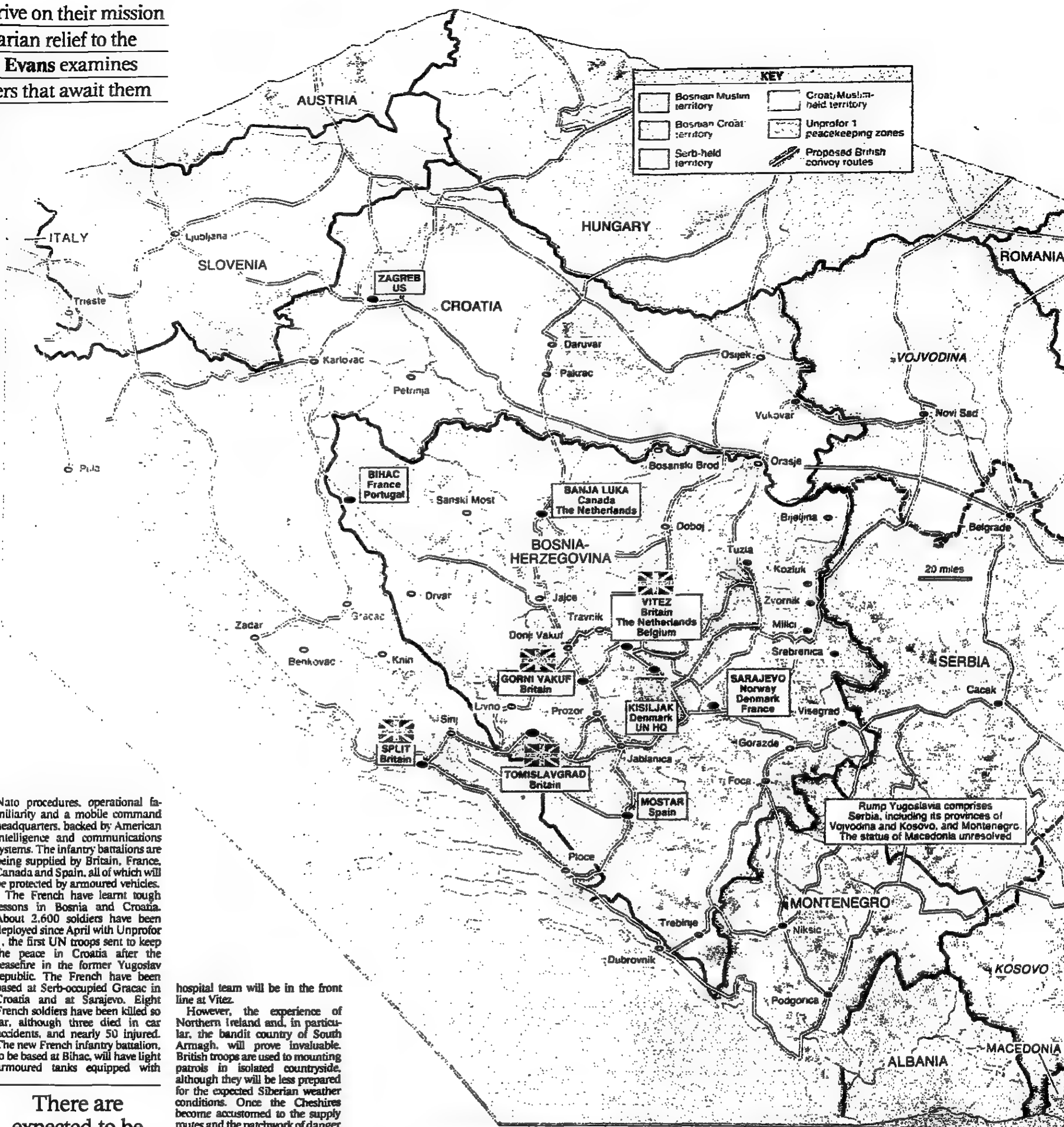
Relief workers also welcome the arrival of the British troops. "Everybody is

optimistic that they will keep the roads open," said Patrick Gasser of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Split.

Psychology, too, will play an important role, observers say. The war in Bosnia is messy and confusing. The ragtag fighters lurking in the woods often do not know at whom they should be pointing their guns. Few are likely to understand the complexities of the UN mandate to escort aid convoys.

But when a convoy of British Warrior armoured vehicles with their roof-mounted cannons lumbers up to a makeshift checkpoint, the message will be clear enough. Get out of the way.

ADAM LEBOR



PEACEKEEPING FORCE

The total number of UN troops/police/observers serving with Unprofor 1 in Croatia and Sarajevo is 15,000 from 25 countries

UNPROFOR 1 DEPLOYED IN APRIL:

Argentina: 850 infantry, 50 police
Bangladesh: 10 observers, 15 police
Belgium: 620 infantry, 3 observers
Brazil: 10 observers
Britain: 300 medical, 8 observers
Canada: 350 engineers, 900 infantry, 10 observers
Colombia: 15 police
Czechoslovakia: 500 infantry, 10 observers
Denmark: 900 infantry, 4 observers
Egypt: 400 infantry, 7 observers, 15 police
Finland: 300 engineers
France: 1,100 logistics personnel, 1,519 infantry
Ghana: 3 observers
Luxembourg: 40 infantry
Jordan: 900 infantry, 10 observers, 15 police
Kenya: 900 infantry, 10 observers, 15 police
Nepal: 900 infantry, 10 observers, 15 police
The Netherlands: 884 infantry, 360 communications personnel, 48 logistics, 34 air, 4 observers
Nigeria: 900 infantry, 2 observers
Norway: 100 logistics, 10 observers
Poland: 900 infantry, 10 observers
Russia: 900 infantry
Sweden: 100 HQ staff
Switzerland: 2 observers
Ukraine: 400 infantry

HUMANITARIAN RELIEF FORCE

The total number of UN troops serving with Unprofor 2 in Bosnia will be about 7,000 from ten countries

UNPROFOR 2 TO BE DEPLOYED IN NOVEMBER:

Britain: 2,400 infantry and support to be based at Vitez, with a supply base at Split and two forward logistic bases at Tomislavgrad and Gornji Vakuf, plus Warriors and Scimitars
France: 1,100 infantry to be based at Bihać, plus eight helicopters and light armoured tanks with 90mm cannon
Canada: 1,200 infantry to be based at Banja Luka
Spain: 700 infantry, with light armoured vehicles, at Mostar
The Netherlands: 940 support personnel to be based at Vitez and Banja Luka, with 64 army lorries
Norway: 35 engineers to be based at Sarajevo
Portugal: 10-15, medical team to be based at Bihać
Denmark: 151 headquarters staff to be based at Kiseljak with a recon company in Sarajevo
US: 300-man field hospital to be based at Zagreb
Belgium: 100-man transport company with 24 trucks at Vitez

NAVAL FORCE

Warships monitoring trade embargo against Serbia and Montenegro in the Adriatic: 4 from Italy, France, Spain and Belgium under the command of the Western European Union and 3-4 on rotation from Nato's Standing Naval Force Mediterranean, consisting of one warship each from the US, Britain, Italy, The Netherlands, Greece, Turkey and Germany.

Is this the age of the condom?

Alice Thomson asks how different generations cope with the problems of contraception and safe sex

You slide into the chemist's and look for them furiously among the acne creams and mouthwashes. Eventually you spot them but they are directly in front of a glamorous blonde assistant and there are two old ladies in the queue in front of you. "I'd like some of those," you mumble. "The condoms?" she shrieks. "Do you want peppermint, liqueur, ribbed or extra long, and what about lubricants?" Humiliated, you grab the nearest pack and run.

Yesterday British pharmacists launched a campaign to take the embarrassment out of asking for information on condoms. A free guide to male and female condoms prepared by the Family Planning Association is being distributed to 12,000 pharmacies, and for the next month pharmacists will be promoting their role as a source of information on contraception and safer sex.

Karin Pappenheim of the Family Planning Clinic says: "People need to know about the different types of condom available and which lubricants are safe. Pharmacists can also advise on how medicines can cause problems with condom use. For instance how certain vaginal treatments and moisturisers can weaken the latex."

According to the Pharmacy Healthcare Scheme, most pharmacies have a quiet area where personal topics can be discussed but pharmacists say they are asked for advice on contraceptives less than once a week.

The condom is the third most popular method of contraception (16 per cent) after sterilisation (25 per cent) and the Pill (23 per cent of women), and about two million British women used condoms as their main method of contraception in 1991. The British Standard for condoms was introduced in 1989. It states that condoms must either be 48mm wide and 150mm long or 52mm wide and 160mm long. An average purchaser uses 102 condoms a year.

Jules Carey-Morgan, 21, is a student at University College London, reading philosophy and linguistics.

I WENT to an all-girls school in Oxford. We had our first sex education in biology lessons at 14. I remember them showing us two figures, one on top of the other. Then they told us which methods of contraceptives were most effective and gave us each a booklet.

I already knew it. Cooped up in an all-girls school, sex was the main topic of conversation. At 12 we already had boyfriends. We kissed and held hands and were deeply shocked if they touched our breasts. By 15 most of us had had a sexual relationship but people didn't sleep around. Condoms were easily available from dispensing machines. Aids was not the problem then, it was non-availability of a partner. I was quite unusual because I had a serious relationship from the age of 16. I am fairly moral. I wouldn't

sleep with someone the first time unless I was really lusting. I have had six serious boyfriends. All those 1960s stories of mass orgies have probably been exaggerated. My mum grew up in the 1960s and didn't sleep with anyone until she was married. We are more liberated, but more constrained by Aids.

Most of my friends wouldn't be embarrassed asking for contraceptives in a chemist, but I don't think we would want to discuss black ribbed versus extra strong condoms in front of an entire shop.

The Pill makes sex funnier, more spontaneous, but all my girlfriends use condoms in a new relationship even if they are on the Pill. I have already been on the Pill six years but the doctor says that is fine.

I have had two Aids tests and I have my own gynaecologist. Most of my friends have regular Aids tests, it's almost like a dental check-up. We are into safe sex not less sex. I had a Scottish nanny who died of Aids — it does frighten me. Something that really shocked me recently was when a friend

By 15 most of us had had a sexual relationship but we didn't sleep around. Condoms were easily available from machines. Aids was not the problem then, it was non-availability of a partner

went to Thailand. He slept with a prostitute without a condom and just brushed it off. That is really stupid.

Elisa Offord, 24, is a press officer for a publishing company. She is single.

AS I WENT to a Catholic school, we only had sex education in biology, and then not much of it. My parents didn't tell me directly. I learnt through my older brother and my friends.

When we were 16 we all had boyfriends and went out in a group together. Aids wasn't an issue, now we are all worried about it. Condoms are just for the first few times. Most of my friends are on the Pill. It is easy to get a prescription and much safer. But some friends have put on weight and felt ill on the Pill so they use the cap. I don't stay on the Pill when I am not going out with someone.

My friends tend to have long-term relationships or are celibate. It is rare to have a one-night stand. Girls tend to be the ones who think about contraceptives.

Aids hasn't ruined sex; it has made us more responsible. I would have hated to have lots of one-night stands, and Aids gives girls the perfect excuse to say no. I would ask a new partner his background, but how can you know if they have Aids? It is a risk you have to

take. You can't worry too much, otherwise you would never have any fun.

John Dodd, 31, is a fund manager in Edinburgh. He is married with two small children.

WE WERE taught about animal and plant reproduction in biology lessons, but we certainly didn't have any formal sex education. I never talked to my parents; I talked to other boys at school and my sister's friends. By 13 we had a vague idea of what should happen between a man and woman but we were vague on the details and had no idea of the consequences. From 15 our experiences varied a lot, but few boys slept with girls while they were still at school.

By the time I got to university we were expected to know about contraceptives. I always assumed women were told by their mothers and the girls would then tell the boys what they wanted. In those days sex was an adventure. If you were sensible there were few long-term consequences. Most girls were on the Pill. I don't remember anyone getting pregnant. The only problem was the threat of venereal disease. We had all heard about herpes but no one ever got it. Men were quite lax. They expected their partners to be on the Pill or to have a supply of condoms.

I was 26 when Aids became a serious issue, and I think my generation's attitudes have changed. My unmarried friends are more likely to use condoms now. Condoms have certainly improved, but the Pill is still safe if you want to avoid getting pregnant. The female condom sounds

disastrous. My instant reaction to sterilisation is, no thanks.

Jane Harrison, 37 and a GP who also works as a senior clinical medical officer at the Margaret Pyke family planning centre in London. She is married with four young sons.

I THINK my generation was less open about contraception than the young are now. There was less sex education at school, and I didn't talk about contraception until I went to medical school in my late teens. Teenagers generally didn't discuss contraception with their parents at that time.

People did experiment more in the 1970s. The Pill was a great release for women, and they could obtain it easily. There was freedom from the fear of pregnancy and less pressure to marry. Fewer women relied on the sheath.

The Pill is still very popular among women of my age group. At the Margaret Pyke centre we see many career women in their thirties. They like the new low dose and progestosterone-only Pills. The "Pill scare" in the 1980s did discourage some women from using the Pill, but with careful advice about the risks and benefits many still find it an excellent method of contraceptive. Smoking with the Pill is bad news for women in their late thirties.

Clean bill of health for new blood

NINE thousand people will contribute to transfusion medicine today — and the same number will be involved tomorrow. But blood donors, like most other people, tend to look blank when this new medical specialty is mentioned.

It received some unwelcome publicity last week, however, when Jean-Pierre Allain, a professor of transfusion medicine at Cambridge University was sentenced to four years in prison for his part in a scandal involving contaminated blood products. (Professor Allain intends to appeal against the verdict.) Until four or five years ago, transfusion medicine was regarded as a branch of haematology. Now new blood products and transfusion methods, and the complex issue of transfusion-transmitted disease, mean that it is recognised as a specialty in its own right.

Like the French, some British haemophiliacs were infected by contaminated blood products in the early 1980s. Now, Dr Christine Lee, the director of the haemophilia unit at London's Royal Free Hospital, says

BOTTOM LINE

Transfusions now carry less risk of contamination

"The effects of sterilising blood products can be seen in the condition of our child haemophiliacs. None of them has been infected with HIV or hepatitis C."

British blood is now considered to be particularly safe, says Dr Richard Dawood, the author of *Travellers' Health* (Oxford University Press). "There has not been a documented case of transfusion-associated HIV since the mid-1980s."

According to Dr Dawood there is still a remote chance of getting HIV from American blood. In the United States, between one pint in 40,000 and one pint in 153,000 is estimated to be contaminated.

Every capital city in the world now has a screening programme for donated blood. Despite this, contaminated blood

can still enter the supply in the time between a donor becoming infected with a disease and producing antibodies which can be picked up by a screening test. In the Ivory Coast 11 per cent of donated blood is discarded after testing positive, but, despite this, between one pint in 94 and one in 185 is contaminated.

UK statistics last year indicate that five cases of Aids and 25 cases of HIV were attributed to blood transfusions from overseas. But 429 travellers, including some who had been living abroad, became HIV positive after heterosexual experiences overseas.

People with the kinds of illnesses which might need a blood transfusion should avoid the tropics. So should pregnant women, who may also end up needing blood, Dr Dawood says.

Poor countries cannot afford disposable needles and syringes, and Dr Dawood believes that taking a few of these abroad may be a wise precaution.

ANN KENT



Jane Harrison with son James: "the Pill is still popular among women of my age"

I have noticed the increase in use of barrier methods among women in their thirties. This is definitely linked to their increased awareness about Aids. The new female condom is a good alternative for older women who are not in a steady relationship and who are worried about catching sexually transmitted diseases.

Women who have completed their families also use the coil, or hormonal injections and implants. Sterilisation is a good choice for couples who are sure that they do not want more children. However it should be seen as a permanent method, and counselling is needed to ensure that all the options have been considered carefully.

The message about Aids has not got across to teenagers as it has to older women.

Catherine Porteous is in her mid-fifties and has recently retired as chairwoman of the National Council for One-Parent Families. She is married with three adult children.

WHEN I was about 16 and at boarding school, one girl's mother wrote to her saying there was one side of marriage that she would always find disgusting and repulsive, but that she must pretend to enjoy it for the sake of her husband. I didn't know what she was talking about. My family never talked about that sort of thing. Once my mother took a deep breath and told me about menstruation, but never about sex. To broach the subject with my father would have been a million times worse.

The first time I saw a French letter was at a Cambridge ball. It was floating in a lavatory and I thought this is what life is about. I knew I mustn't get pregnant but no one told me about contraception, even when I got married. Finally,

after my first baby, I went to a very nice woman GP who explained.

I was 21 when I got married. Nowadays we probably would have lived together first. Most women in my generation used the Dutch cap, which was rather messy, or the rhythm method.

I discussed contraception

with my children. I think it is wonderful that the Pill has given my daughters' generation more freedom to plan their families. But the increase in sexual activity has created a huge problem among young teenagers. Few know what precautions to take. Under-16 pregnancies rose by 25 per cent in the 1980s.

Mass murder is child's play

Ping! Zap! Peewow! Splat! Decibels of destruction and video game violence zing through the house. A gentle, imaginative, nicely brought up boy of 11 is blasting bits off electronic opponents in Mega Man and wishing his pocket money would extend to the purchase of Street Fighter II.

This child has never owned a gun, a light-saber or Rambo outfit, no war toy has ever been allowed in our house. Where did I go wrong? Or did I?

The experts, as ever, have an opinion. Last Thursday, internationally acclaimed "playologists" from around the globe assembled to discuss "Myths and Realities of Play" at a conference hosted by the British Toy and Hobby Association. Several took war toys and games as their theme, and all mentioned aggression in play during their dissertations.

The results of various surveys on the subject were reported. I have to own up to a certain scepticism about such research; it often transpires that much time and effort has been expended quantifying and tabulating the obvious, such as "Playing war is mostly a male thing". (Professor Gisela Wegener-Spöhrling reporting on Swedish findings that 76 per cent of boys owned war toys, while merely 29 per cent of girls had any.)

More interesting was the analysis of parental attitudes. English and Italian mothers in parallel surveys were revealed to divide themselves into three basic classifications. Those who discourage: "My six-year-old understands that real guns kill and that his parents dislike representations of them." Those who allow the play within limits: "I'm bothered if it's excessively noisy and violent, but can accept it as part of a child's acting out internal tensions." And those who allow it unconditionally: "It's harmless, like adults watching war films."

When it comes to school time, attitudes shift. The majority of parents support the general ban on war toys being taken into kindergarten or beyond. Most nursery schools require sidearms to be surrendered upon entry.

Yet painstaking studies, in which researchers observe unsupervised, unarmed, "free play" among small children, reveal X-rated plots and play themes. Whipping, bond-



DAVINA LLOYD

age, mutilation (cutting bits off toy rabbits), incest, burial and exhumation. All this and more, plainly visible when normal, well-adjusted children move by mutual agreement into a private world where strands of the playful and profane are inseparably threaded through their games.

Parents would be horrified. The prevailing style of child-rearing is pacifist and protective; a desire to shield the young from the nastiness of the real world, to offer politically correct and positive playthings. Parents are attracted by anything labelled "educational". If only they remembered what actually lurks in the imagination of a child. We all lived there once.

The fundamental fallacy is a belief in the power of toys to shape a child's future. Do all those who ever played with Lego become structural engineers?

Adults constantly misunderstand children's capacity to distinguish between play and reality. Says Professor Brian Sutton-Smith of Pennsylvania University: "The whole point of play is that it is not real."

Play possesses an inner reality, unconnected with the literal world. Children cotton on to the difference very early. To the peace-loving father who bans a replica revolver, the child responds: "But dad, I don't want to shoot anybody. I just want to play."

Such prohibitions may well be counterproductive, encouraging an unbidden interest in ballistics. I never allowed my son to have a toy gun; he first shot me from his high-chair with a crust of Marmite toast. It would seem that arms and the boy are inseparable.

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You'd be forgiven for assuming that the slimmer, fitter-looking man on the right has a lower cholesterol level.

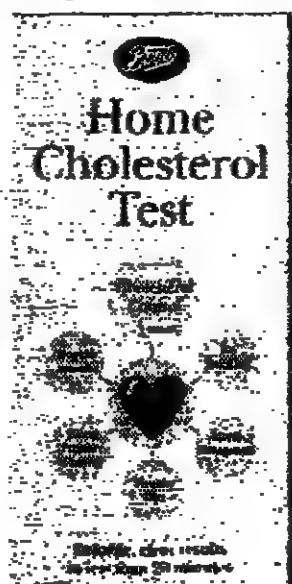
The fact is you can't tell by looking and the only way to know for sure is to have a simple blood test.

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PAVING THE WAY

Mr Major has chosen to put his hand in the fire

The Conservative party is bracing itself for an unnecessary battle in its already bitter civil war. Next Wednesday, in a so-called "paving" debate on Europe, the prime minister has staked his reputation, and possibly the continuance of his government, on winning the vote. Perhaps he will win; perhaps he will not; perhaps he will retreat; perhaps he just likes gambling.

The debate carries no constitutional import. It was promised in the summer after the Danes voted against the Maastricht treaty. Britain's ratification bill had already had its second reading in the Commons. Labour argued that the House should be given the chance to have a general discussion about European policy before proceeding with the committee stage. This is the result. Wednesday's vote, therefore, will do nothing to further the ratification of the treaty.

The debate will not even make much sense. John Major is asking his party to take him on trust: MPs will be voting on the merits of the existing Maastricht treaty but on some future treaty-with-declarations-attached which the prime minister hopes to bring back from Edinburgh. The waverers will have no idea whether Mr Major will win enough concessions to appease their anxieties about subsidiarity. Parliament is being asked to ponder a pig in a poke.

Mr Major and his foreign secretary, Douglas Hurd, are not making matters easier by selling Maastricht on a false prospectus. At the Tory party conference, the treaty was hailed as a great step back for the Community, away from union and towards returning powers to member states. The French and the Germans do not believe that. Simply read the second sentence of the treaty itself: "This Treaty marks a new stage in the process of creating an ever closer union among the peoples of Europe."

Mr Major went out of his way to pacify fears about European citizenship. Article 8 of the treaty states that "every person holding the nationality of a Member State shall be a citizen of the Union". Yesterday Tony Marlow, a Eurosceptic Tory MP, accused the government of indulging in "a massive policy of misinformation". Mr Marlow, though more trenchant than most, is not

alone in his suspicions. Whatever impression they may sometimes give, MPs are as capable of reading the Maastricht treaty as any cabinet minister, more so than some. It is counterproductive and patronising to try to delude them over the treaty's real meaning. If Mr Major believes in the whole thrust of Maastricht, he should justify it in positive terms, stressing what the treaty will do to improve British people's lives, not what it will not do.

The only positive argument ministers use is that Britain must be "at the heart of Europe". The weak reading of this assertion is that Britain should fall in with whatever its European partners want to do. That would be nonsense. More convincing is that Britain must play its part in ensuring that war will never again break out on West European soil. European unity is necessary for peace and European unity is not now increased by a treaty which in so many places now inflames the worst nationalist sentiments. All over Europe, people are saying "this far and no further". Helmut Kohl may accept a single currency, but his people do not, and nothing is more likely to fuel nationalism in Germany than the sacrifice of the mark to the ecu.

Mr Major's arguments are misleading. Moreover, whichever way the debate goes, it will do him harm. He wants to win a clear majority in order to re-establish his leadership credentials at home; and yet the easier the ride at Westminster, the harder he will find it to persuade his European colleagues of the need to water down Maastricht in order to win public support in Britain and Denmark. Conversely, if he loses, or only narrowly wins the vote, he might persuade François Mitterrand that his plight was serious, but only at the expense of domestic humiliation and damage to his prospects of cutting public spending and interest rates.

The main effect of the paving debate is to cause unnecessary distraction from the immediate, and far more serious, task at hand: to restore the British economy to health. The government is now reputed to be fiddling with the motion for debate, diluting it so much that MPs will find it impossible to rebel. Meanwhile the country burns.

PUBLISH THE CHINA LETTERS

Britain should prove there is no secret deal

China's leaders are hoping that they have persuaded Britain to rely crucially on the trust he has last drawn blood in their campaign to discredit Chris Patten's standing with Hong Kong's people and derail his strategy for greater democracy. Peking alleges that the British government secretly agreed, in an exchange of letters with China in 1990, on arrangements for the 1995 elections with which, it claims, Mr Patten's proposed constitutional reforms are incompatible.

The best defence is attack — and on Mr Patten's chosen ground of open government. For weeks, the Chinese have tried without much success to undermine support in Hong Kong for the governor's plans to strengthen political accountability, and to introduce broadly-based if partly indirect democracy to Hong Kong in 1995. His proposals are anathema in Peking. But so popular is the governor's strategy in Hong Kong that the Chinese have been reduced to disguising their hostility to more democracy in quibbles, for none of which have they been able to produce a scintilla of evidence.

The Chinese have failed to make the case that his constitutional reforms contravene either Britain's treaty obligations or China's Basic Law for post-1997 Hong Kong. They are on weak ground in refusing, as they did when Mr Patten was in Peking last week, to come up with alternative ideas which are, as he has said they must be, fair, open, capable of attracting support — and forthcoming by early 1993, after which date he intends to press ahead with the relevant legislation. Hong Kong has reacted coolly to China's threat simply to dismantle the legislature in 1997 if it will be thwarted.

China's latest shaft is directed, instead, at Mr Patten's credibility as governor. Mr

Patten relies crucially on the trust he has last drawn blood in their campaign to discredit Chris Patten's standing with Hong Kong's people and derail his strategy for greater democracy. Peking alleges that the British government secretly agreed, in an exchange of letters with China in 1990, on arrangements for the 1995 elections with which, it claims, Mr Patten's proposed constitutional reforms are incompatible.

The governor maintains that there has been "no secret deal and no agreement". But in Hong Kong, the mud will stick if these documents are not speedily published. They should reveal whether Britain, as Douglas Hurd insists, has indeed been steadily pressing China to alter its Basic Law so as to provide for more directly elected seats on Hong Kong's legislature — and whether Britain has taken no for an answer, as China implies. Silence would be the kiss of death for Mr Patten's reforms, and for his governorship: it would confirm that Britain has something to hide. Authority to publish rests with the British government, not Mr Patten. Mr Hurd should lose no time in making the entire correspondence public.

JUMBO REDUNDO

There is a jungle out there

Yesterday the telephone lines to Windsor safari park were inundated with calls from the caring British public, offering to adopt the 600 animals that have been made redundant because the park has gone into receivership. Economically, the sensible course would be to slaughter all the animals now, before they run up any more bills for exotic foodstuffs. But the official receivers, recognising the public relations disaster they have on their hands, have announced that they will be finding the animals good homes rather than graves, if possible. The trouble is that, with the recession, the bottom has fallen out of the market for tamed and shabby tigers, as well as everything else.

Animal-lovers would be prudent, unless they are rich as well as concerned, to go for a wallaby or a butterfly rather than an elephant. Jumbo will not leave much change from £1 million after it has its special housing, its keeper, and at least one companion — because elephants are so sociable. Feeding a lion cannot be done with household scrapings left over before commitment of crockery to the dishwasher. The British public concern is at the level of telling the difference between a buffalo and a bison because you cannot wash your hands in a

buffalo. The antique Romans were more robust about their wild animals. British attitudes to animals have always been ambivalent and sentimental, a cross between frightened cruelty and soppy anthropomorphism. When wild animals were kept in the Tower of London, it was the first zoo in Europe. Dark Age polar bears were allowed out on a chain to swim in the Thames and catch salmon, instead of being poisoned or bored to death by tourist guides.

The Windsor safari park was one of the first of the new fad of theme parks. It was the next step after the Victorian institution of zoological gardens, viz. cages. But the pretence that the animals were being seen in natural surroundings did not last. Bored lions asleep in the Thames Valley raft could not compete with television wild-life films showing the big beasts killing and copulating ad nauseam, and the final pretence that half-term visitors were vicarious Great White Hunters was removed when the park stopped the baboons tearing the windscreen wipers off tippers' cars.

The essence of lions is that they should give a frisson of power and danger. Without that, their occupation has gone in the urbanised world, and they can stop roaring.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9KN Telephone 071-782 5000

Hitches on the road to Maastricht

From Lord Bruce of Donington

Sir, It may well be, as your leading article today indicates, that the prime minister regards ratification by Parliament of the Maastricht treaty as an issue of confidence in his leadership. He may indeed have given a verbal undertaking at the Birmingham summit to proceed along this road. He should however be reminded of the unequivocal undertaking he gave to Parliament and the British people in the House of Commons as recently as September 24 last when he declared (*Hansard*, col 8):

So we need a definition — a settled order — of what is for national action and what is for Community action. We need clear criteria by which Community proposals will be judged. When we are satisfied that such a system has been put in place, and when we are clear that the Danes have a basis on which they can put the treaty back to their electorate, we shall bring the Maastricht Bill back to the House of Commons.

The prime minister may be clear in his mind that the Danes have a "basis" on which they can call a second referendum and, if this be so, he has yet to reveal its detail. He cannot however pretend for one instant that the "subsidiarity" system has yet been agreed, let alone "put in place". M. Jacques Delors, in his customary arrogance and partiality, publicly derided the prime minister's idea of "subsidiarity" in a speech to the European Parliament (report, October 15) two days before the Birmingham conference.

Pending the careful resolution of these questions, we should have thought that, as a matter of personal honour, the prime minister should adhere to the undertaking so specifically, and without outside pressure, given to the House of Commons on September 24.

Yours faithfully,
DONALD BRUCE,
House of Lords,
October 26.

From Mr Peter T. Hughes

Sir, The government cannot claim a mandate for the ratification of the Maastricht treaty, as the three main political parties fought the last election on the basis of commitment to it. As the electorate has been denied a referendum, the honourable course now would be for Mr Major to allow Conservative MPs a free vote on the issue rather than attempt to whip them into line through threats of forcing a general election.

As a Conservative I believe the survival of the government to be more important than the political survival of the prime minister or the ratification of the treaty. The party would never forgive John Major if, after winning an historic victory in April, he were

now to throw it all away and condemn the party to a period of internal division and possible annihilation at the polls.

Yours sincerely,
PETER HUGHES,
40 King Street, Chester,
October 26.

From Mr M. J. C. Tweedie

Sir, When discussing the passage of the Maastricht Bill through Parliament the Conservative party chairman, rather arrogantly in my view, stated on *Today* this morning that "we cannot have a minority of MPs dissenting Conservative policy".

Parliament is not about endorsing the wishes of the Cabinet. It is about reflecting the democratic opinion of the country.

The government must wake up to the fact that those dissenting Tory voices, combined with many in the opposition parties, reflect the true majority opinion in the country that Maastricht is a distraction from the need for action on the economy.

Yours faithfully,
M. J. C. TWEEDIE,
Lower Upton,
Little Hereford,
Ludlow, Shropshire,
October 26.

From Sir William Harding

Sir, Even the Opposition knows John Major's good qualities — intelligence, pragmatism, humour, modesty, fairness, concern for others, loyalty to his subordinates and sheer niceness — which is why those of us who voted for him and his party in April did so with enthusiasm and welcomed his victory with wholehearted relief.

Now he must show us some bad ones — impatience with ineptitude, stubbornness in adversity, remorselessness in exacting obedience, selfishness in imposing his own agenda and malice in doing down the enemy.

Statesmen, like generals, need their nasty qualities as well as their nice ones, as well as a fair dose of luck. If they are to succeed, I would love to see the prime minister, without being in any way untrue to himself, put aside the armour of light and show us his dark qualities.

In so doing he will surprise and delight his true friends and confound his perfidious enemies both in Britain and in the world at large — and nowhere more so than in the midst of the European Community.

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM HARDING,
c/o Garrick Club,
15 Garrick Street, WC2,
October 22.

inferior. US aircraft to EFA is the F18. This is even older (in design-life terms) than the Gladiator was when the RAF had to defend Malta with it in 1940.

Russia has aircraft which are currently superior to anything in the RAF. No doubt they will be happy to add sterling to the various other currencies for which they will sell their aircraft.

The impact of this alternative on employment, balance of payment, and the extinction of the UK aircraft industry (one of the UK's few world-class industries) need not be elaborated.

2. To disband RAF Strike Command, apart from some peripheral duties such as flying Lancaster, Spitfire and Hurricane at public events. Much money would be saved, and at this level the RAF might usefully be privatised.

Yours faithfully,
A. M. HODGES,
6 Church Street,
Hampton, Middlesex.

Ozone dangers

From Sir Michael McNair-Wilson

Sir, Your report (October 12) about the expanding hole in the ozone layer with the consequent increase in exposure to ultraviolet light must be taken very seriously by government and private citizen alike.

In effect it means an enhanced risk of those skin conditions which, if not treated at an early stage, can become cancerous. This particularly applies to those people who expose their skin to the sun or revel in sun-bathing during the months from April to September.

At the National Kidney Federation's recent annual conference we were surprised to be told by a distinguished consultant dermatologist that everyone should now consider using a factor 6 sun-block cream

on their faces on sunny days during the spring and summer. Those of us with skins made more sensitive by the drugs needed to prevent organ rejection (I have a transplant) were advised to use factor 15 sun block.

After such a warning it is difficult to see why CFCs, with their known effect on the ozone layer, should not be phased out as a matter of urgency, particularly as alternatives for refrigeration and air conditioning already exist. Perhaps it is also time for a statement from the Department of Health about ozone depletion side-effects.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL MCNAIR-WILSON
(President, National Kidney Federation),
Nine Elms, Bucklebury,
Reading, Berkshire.

Bronze Age boat

From Dr E. V. Wright

Sir, The second phase of excavation of the Bronze Age boat found at Dover has now been completed.

The remarkable remains do indeed have some resemblance, as Mr Sergeant writes (*Letter*, October 19), to those from North Ferriby, Humberside, which were first found by me in 1937 (not 1947) and the Brigg "raft" found in 1888 and re-excavated by McGrail in 1974; but all three examples exhibit marked dissimilarities from each other, the extent of which will be clearer when clearing and recording of the Dover remains have been undertaken.

What is known so far is that Dover and the Ferriby group are roughly contemporary at about 1300 BC, whereas the Brigg "raft" is some five centuries later while still of the Bronze Age. All three have the bottom braced by transverse timbers through integral cleats shaped on the planks. At Dover and Ferriby planks are joined edge-wise by individual stitches whilst those in the "raft" are continuously sewn.

It is of vital importance that study of the concealed and inaccessible northern "end" of the Dover boat should be tackled before what is otherwise left below ground is embedded in concrete roadworks. These finds, with some planks from the Severn estuary yet to be described, are the only examples of Bronze Age plank-built

Shortcomings of banking services

From the Chairman of the Association of Bank Customers

Sir, Bernard Levin ("Debit, credit, both it and run", October 19) rightly draws attention to the remarkable situation (as evidenced by the experience of members of this association) in which banks will so often find an underserving cause on which to shower money, but seem strangely incapable of lending effectively.

At least one bank advises that it is "moving towards a 1,000-strong salesforce" to sell insurance to its "largely untapped banking customer base", although some of its untapped customers (again our members) would far prefer to have access to a proper banking rather than insurance service.

Should any individual or small trader be able to secure a grudging — and frequently reduced — loan it will be on the strict understanding that an all-wise bank manager supervise almost to the point of controlling his use of those precious moneys.

Customers know only too well the extremely efficient methods used by the banks to enforce immediate compliance with their requirements

for repayment. And there are the mistakes: computer software now exists to allow customers to check bank statements which in many cases have substantial errors in charges and interest rates. We know of errors on one account, for example, amounting to £80,000 over a two-year period.

So bad has been the experience of many who no longer have a business or a home, or who trade from day to day with real fear of the next visitor and phone call, that this association, representing about 3,500 members, was formed a few months ago. We are finding that many customers prefer to use building society accounts. We have been asked by many members to look into the availability of foreign banks to provide services in the UK.

Sooner or later there may be no more customers left. At that stage the banks may be forced to provide a keenly priced, efficient service in real competition with others offering similar services.

Yours truly,
STUART CLIFFE, Chairman,
The Association of Bank Customers,
Llantryn Secunda Manor,
Church Road, Caldicot, Gwent.

Fuelling power stations

From Professor Max Fordham, FEng

Sir, Coal-fired power stations burn coal to produce steam. The steam is used in steam turbines to generate electricity. The efficiency of the process is limited by the maximum temperature at which the steam can be generated. Steam turbines are very efficient at discharging the unwanted heat left over from this process very close to the cool outside temperature.

In the new gas-fired power stations gas turbines operate at a very high temperature but are not good at discharging the heat at a low temperature. Therefore the power stations take the surplus heat from the turbine and use that to generate steam, which is used in a steam turbine.

The result is that the new combined-cycle power stations are much more

efficient than coal-fired thermal power stations. This efficiency is gained even though the individual power stations are quite small. Thus it is not correct to compare the economics of generation simply on the delivered price of the fuel.

If we are concerned with the carbon-dioxide emission from combustion then that also favours gas. The energy in coal is almost entirely due to carbon content, while the energy in natural gas is produced by both the carbon content and the hydrogen. The combustion of gas produces less carbon dioxide than the production of coal for a given energy flow.

Yours faithfully,
M. FORDHAM,
Max Fordham & Partners
(Consulting Engineers),
42/43 Gloucester Crescent, NW1,
October 24.

Britain abroad

From the Director-General of the British Council

Sir, For over 40 years the British Council has been active in human resource development overseas. Most of this work has been funded from the British aid programme; notably for skills training, education and English language teaching.

While the public's attention is inevitably drawn to dramatic emergencies and to humanitarian aid, we ignore the long-term and mutually beneficial effects of the Overseas Development Agency's other work at our peril.

The British Council's staff, in the field and directly involved, are well aware that the impact of long-term

British aid is widely recognised by other countries, including fellow donors. It also creates interest in this country and a respect for its capacities that cannot be taken for granted in other countries these days.

Significant reductions in this investment would directly threaten Britain's ability to sustain the relationships this country needs in order to make a real mark on other parts of the international agenda. Those of us who are committed to Britain's long-term relationships overseas view that prospect with alarm and anxiety. Is this a time to lose friends abroad?

Yours sincerely,
JOHN HANSON,
Director-General,
The British Council,
10 Spring Gardens, SW1.

Religion in Sudan

From the Chargé d'Affaires, Embassy of the Republic of Sudan

Sir, The claims you attribute to the Right Reverend Joseph Gasi Abang, Bishop of Tombura and Yambio (report, October 17), contradict both truth and reason. At no time has the Sudan government proclaimed a slogan of "one country, one language, one religion", as the bishop alleges.

On the contrary, the government has affirmed its respect for the cultural and religious diversity of Sudan. Ministers and top officials in the government include a significant proportion of Christians, who include an Anglican bishop, the Reverend Gabriel Roreg, minister of state at the Foreign Ministry. Freedom of religion is guaranteed by law and practice.

It is true that the government favours the use of Arabic in education, but not at the expense of local languages. The opponents of Arabic would rather replace it by English.

It also defies reason to claim that food is being used to convert people to Islam. Apart from the fact that forcible conversion to Islam is invalid, the fact is that of over 50 aid agencies operating in Sudan, only two are Muslim. Most of the others belong to missionary Christian organisations. If there is any charge of abuse of aid for religious purposes, then the bishop knows who to level it against.

Yours sincerely,
AHMAD OMAR,
Chargé d'Affaires,
Embassy of the Republic of Sudan,
3 Cleveland Row, SW1.

Jubilee line

From Mr Wyndham Thomas

Sir, Yes, a "positive announcement" should be made about the Jubilee line extension (Sir William Barlow's letter, October 26). It should be "no". First, the estimated cost of £1.8 billion would, on all the modern precedents, be exceeded by at least 50 per cent.

Secondly, London Underground's far more urgent need is for investment in the system as it is — which would benefit all Tube travellers, not a minority.

Thirdly, the extension is proposed by many simply to bail out the owners in Docklands of speculative projects which should never have been started, and which have already been given large enterprise zone subsidies.

Perhaps most importantly, would not the £1.8 billion be better invested in transport improvements now proposed for five or six of our provincial cities? The benefit to engineering manufacturers and in creating employment would be at least as great.

Yours faithfully,
WYNDHAM THOMAS
(Member, London Docklands Development Corporation, 1981-8),
8 Westwood Park Road,
Peterborough, Cambridgeshire,
October 26.

Business letters, page 25

Imperial preference

From Mr Michael Davison

Sir, In what organ but *The Times* could the name of a fun-loving Roman emperor of the 3rd century be invoked in aid twice on the same page (October 21), with readers left to choose between the spelling Heliogabalus of your leader writer or the Elagabalus preferred by your correspondent Mr Colin Haycraft?

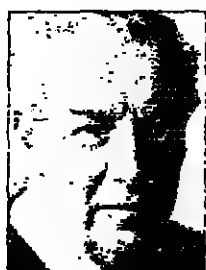
Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL DAVISON,
5 St Albans Road,
Kingston upon Thames, Surrey,
October 22.

Letters to the editor that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 071-782 5046.



BUSINESS 21-27

Lloyd's names appeal to European court



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Britten and Weill, role models for a new generation



SPORT 36-40

Britain's sporting glory goes on exhibition

THE GENIUS OF POUSSIN
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STEEL CUTS



British Steel's decision to cut output reflects the overcapacity and falling prices in European industry
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INVERSCO PAYS

Inverco MIM will pay £9.5 million to compensate losses from Drayton Consolidated Trust
Page 23

NO DEAL



Tony Edwards, who is leaving Lucas Industries, will not receive compensation for loss of office
Tempos, page 24

LAW TIMES



The law needs an independent body to tackle miscarriages of justice, Anthony Edwards argues
Pages 33-35

THE POUND

US dollar 1.5885 (-0.0280)
German mark 2.4371 (-0.0331)
Exchange index 79.3 (-1.2)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 1976.2 (-5.5)
FT-SE 100 2661.6 (-8.1)
New York Dow Jones 3207.91 (+0.27)
Tokyo Nikkei Avg 17011.33 (-106.32)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 8%
3-month Interbank: 7 1/2%
3-month eligible bills: 7 1/2%
US: Prime Rate: 6%
Federal Funds: 3 1/4%
3-month Treasury Bills: 2.93-2.91%
30-year bonds: 94 1/2-95 1/2

CURRENCIES

London: New York: £ \$1.5877
DM \$2.4411
Sfr \$1.5385
FF \$6.2680
Yen \$150.47
Index 79.3
ECU 0.005806
SDR 1.43624
London Forex market close

GOLD

London: AM \$341.30 PM \$341.45
Close \$340.90-341.30
C214.50-215.50
New York: COMEX \$341.65-342.15

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Nov) \$19.80/bbl (\$19.90)

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 139.4 September (1987=100)
* Denotes midday trading price

Prices and profits slide across Europe

Slump forces 20% output cut at British Steel

By ROSS TYMAN AND PATRICIA TEHAN

BRITISH Steel is to cut production by 20 per cent and put much of its workforce on short-time. It blames a worldwide slump in demand for steel products.

The cutbacks spotlight a crisis in the European steel industry. Recession and cheap imports from former communist countries have combined with reluctance by state-owned producers to cut output. The result has been a collapse of prices and profitability.

European industry ministers are expected to review the state of the steel industry when the council of ministers meets in Brussels on November 24.

The chairman of Europe's leading steelmakers have called on governments and the European Commission for a 4 billion ecu (£3.2 billion) restructuring plan, involving the loss of 50,000 jobs, to cut capacity. The commission will face renewed pressure to put up barriers against east Euro-

pean products. British Steel said the production cut during the third quarter meant employees would be put on short-time, though it was unable to say how many. The company plans to review production again in December, "in the light of market conditions".

All four of its integrated steel plants, at Teesside, Scunthorpe, Port Talbot and Llanwern, will be affected. Unions were enraged that British Steel announced the production cut without informing them first.

John Weakley, chief steel negotiator for the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union, said: "British Steel is the leanest and fittest steel company in Europe, if not the world. This decision has come

as a complete surprise, but underlines the gravity of the slump in manufacturing."

Shares in British Steel fell 6 1/2 p to 56 p as analysts downgraded their forecasts for the half year to September 30, due on November 16. The company was floated in December 1988 at 125 p a share.

Ian Lowe, of Smith New Court, forecasts a £90 million first-half loss. He expects the interim dividend to be cut from 3 p to 1 p, if not axed.

The European steel market is hugely oversupplied and high stock levels were further increased by overproduction in August. Germany's Thyssen Stahl has cut production by a quarter and last week Europe's biggest producer, Usinor Sacilor of France, revealed a first-half net loss of 360 million francs.

Tumbling worldwide demand for steel, combined with a £100 million charge for closing the Ravenscraig plant in Scotland, pushed British Steel into a £55 million loss for the year to March 31. The total dividend was cut from 8.75 p to 4.5 p. Analysts forecast a £150 million loss for the current year. In the 12 months to March, British Steel cut its workforce by 7,000, to 44,000. Ravenscraig's closure will reduce that to 42,000 and more jobs are expected to go.

In 1967, when 14 companies were nationalised to form British Steel, the business had 250,000 employees. Production was 23.2 million tonnes a year. The company now claims to be the most efficient steel maker in Europe. But it has had difficulty in penetrating overseas markets dominated by state steel firms. UK demand has been limited by slow growth in manufacturing and by the trend to lighter materials such as aluminium or plastic.

This year, British Steel is unlikely to produce more than 12 million tonnes of a total national steel output forecast at 16 million tonnes. Thousands of Spanish steelworkers marched through Madrid to protest against industry reform plans that would cost nearly 10,000 jobs.

Stock market, page 24
Unkindest cuts, page 25

Review panel criticises British Gas accounts

By JON ASHWORTH

BRITISH Gas has been admonished by the Financial Reporting Review Panel over the presentation of its financial accounts.

After a change of year-end, the company twice included a three-month period. While the overall profit figure for 1991 has not been affected, the panel is sending out a clear signal that companies are expected to follow the rules. Price Waterhouse, the auditor, did not qualify the change, which was explained in the notes to the accounts.

But Nick StJohn, British Gas chief financial accountant, said such problems could be avoided if the panel and Accounting Standards Board were more approachable. "With the Securities and Exchange Commission, you can clear what you want to do in advance. You can't do that

with the review panel and ASB. It seems a bit of a weakness in the system."

The panel has said it is not in the business of giving advice. After talks with British Gas it accepts there was no intention to mislead and does not propose further action.

The panel has also criticised SEP Industrial Holdings for failing to depreciate the value of some industrial freehold properties. The auditor to SEP, Bloomer Heaven, had qualified the accounts.

The panel has commented on ten companies since it was set up to police company accounts in January 1991. Its biggest coup has been forcing Trafalgar House to include a property writedown in its accounts, reducing pre-tax profits by £102.7 million.

Twelve companies are believed to be under investigation.

Times wins finance award



Cook: third-time winner

LAST night, *The Times* was named as the Personal Finance National Newspaper of the Year by the Bradford & Bingley Building Society as part of its annual media awards.

The award was presented to Lindsay Cook, personal finance editor, by Lady Denton of Wakefield, the consumer affairs minister, at the Savoy Hotel, London. It is the third time that Miss Cook has collected the award in its six-year history.

Geoffrey Lister, chief executive of the Bradford & Bingley, said: "The *Times* has been awarded the prize for the consistency, authority and all-

round excellence of its personal finance coverage through good writing and presentation."

The awards were started to promote personal finance coverage in newspapers, magazines, radio and television and are regarded as the premier awards for the sector. The judges included Sir Bernard Ingham, former Downing Street press secretary.

Diana Wright of *The Sunday Times* was named Personal Finance Journalist of the Year. BBC's *Watchdog* programme won a special award for drawing attention to the problem of closed bank and building society accounts.



The way it was: British Steel employed 250,000 when it was nationalised; the figure is now down to 44,000

Storehouse disposes of Habitat

By JONATHAN FRYNN

ANOTHER great retailing empire of the 1980s was unwound yesterday with the announcement that Storehouse is to sell Habitat and Richards for £108 million.

The long expected disposals mean that Storehouse, founded by Sir Terence Conran in 1986, will comprise only the BHS, Mothercare and Blazer chains, although Blazer is also up for sale.

The management at Storehouse, completely overhauled in recent years, said they were delighted at being able to offload the loss-making Habitat. David Dworkin, the chief executive, described the deal as "a dream come true".

David Simons, group finance director and chairman of Habitat since 1991, is to leave the company next March. Habitat Europe, comprising the 37 French and Spanish stores and the 39 UK stores, has been sold for £78 million to the Dutch Sitching Ingka Foundation, owner of Ikea, the Swedish furniture superstore group. The sale includes repayment of inter-company loans of £24 million and gives a surplus over net book value of £7 million.

The 19 US stores, operating as Conran's Habitat, are not included in the deal but Storehouse said yesterday it is in talks at an "advanced stage" with a potential purchaser. The US stores are heavily loss-making and lost £7.7 million on sales of £29 million last year. Any sale will be at a nominal price and would involve an extraordinary provision of about £25 million.

Richards, the fashion chain, of 213 UK stores, made £1 million profit last year and is being sold to Sears for £30 million. The sales will leave Storehouse with net cash of about £80 million.

Ikea's habitat, page 22
Tempos, page 24

Hang Seng bubble bursts

FROM LULU YU IN HONG KONG

HONG KONG'S stock market has dropped sharply after a particularly strong two-week bull run. The Hang Seng index yesterday lost 200 points, or 4 per cent, to close at 6,062 as alarm over deteriorating Sino-British relations gripped the colony.

Investors finally realised the implications of Governor Chris Patten's failure to resolve political and financial disputes with China. Peking launched a sharp attack on Mr Patten, threatening to impose its own government in Hong Kong in 1997 and withdraw support for the colony's new airport.

China was most annoyed by Mr Patten's plans to speed up

the pace of democracy in Hong Kong, accusing him of being confrontational and violating agreements between China and Britain.

The political and airport disputes are not new, but investors had chosen to ignore the consequences. They were optimistic that the new governor would resolve the differences in Peking last week.

The stock index and turnover had reached record highs last week. Market reaction to the outcome of China's party congress was positive, and the prospect of a Democratic victory in America was beginning to cause less concern.

China's reform package, along with the promise of ac-

cess to open markets following the settlement of the Sino-US trade dispute, ignited strong overseas buying," said Alex Tang of Hong Kong's Dao Heng Securities.

Analysts expect a bear run as investors take stock of China's criticisms of Mr Patten. But some believe the market's long-term prospects are good.

"What we have here is a difference of opinion that is really only short term as the territory is going to revert to China in 1997, regardless of what Mr Patten says," said John Mulcahy of Peregrine Brokerage.

Leading article, page 17
Place to invest, page 22
Tempos, page 24

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Forget London — MPs try Frankfurt

By COLIN NARBROUGH
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

IN WHAT appears to be yet another manifestation of backbench power, members of the Commons Treasury select committee next week journey to Frankfurt in search of authoritative guidance from the Bundesbank on the conduct of British economic policy.

Norman Lamont used a timely open letter to the cross-party committee during the Conservative conference to enunciate his hastily drafted strategy for life outside the exchange-rate mechanism. The Chancellor's Mansion House speech on Thursday, will hopefully provide greater insight into the management of the economy, now supposedly free of any Bundesbank chains. But the

select committee is clearly not prepared to base its report on the shifting sands of present policy. In recognition of the key role the German central bank has played in the direction of the British economy over the past two years, and particularly its part in sterling's "temporary" suspension from the ERM, the MPs have decided to question Bundesbank officials face-to-face.

The floating pound, meanwhile, shed almost 3 1/2 pence yesterday in London to close at DM2.4371, and retreated more than 2 1/2 cents against a stronger dollar to \$1.5885, its lowest finish since December 1989.

John Watts, Conservative MP for Slough and select committee chairman, will lead his team of parliamentary inquirers on a one-day visit to the

Bundesbank on November 2. Although the trip was planned before the dramatic events of last month, the committee's investigation in Frankfurt will naturally encompass the Bundesbank's interpretation of Britain's Black Wednesday.

The same committee called in at the Bundesbank once before, in 1990, when the hot topic was German monetary union, one of the root causes of Britain's ERM debacle.

Chances that the Bundesbank will nourish British hopes of a general monetary easing in Europe, were undermined yesterday by Helmut Schlesinger, the central bank's president. Faced with the likelihood that German inflation will climb again next year, he reaffirmed that the Bundesbank's core commitment remains price stability.

Departing Lucas chief to receive no payoff

By MARTIN WALLER
DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

TONY Edwards, the man who seemed destined to take over the helm at Lucas Industries but is expected this week to become head of the aerospace division at TI Group, will not receive any compensation for loss of office. Sir Anthony Gill, the Lucas chairman and chief executive, declared yesterday.

Mr Edwards has told the board that he wishes to leave Lucas in the near future but has yet to resign formally as managing director.

Sir Anthony denied the market's assumption that Mr Edwards's departure meant the loss of the heir-apparent at one of Britain's biggest engineering groups.

"Mr Edwards had no reason other than his own hopes and ambitions to believe he would be made chief executive," he said. He hoped Mr Edwards would formally resign from the board shortly. "I'm not too comfortable with anybody working for us who hasn't got their heart and soul in it."

He refused to enlarge on the board's reasons for deciding that Mr Edwards had proved "unsuitable" for the chief executive's post.

TI Group has sold its furnaces operation to a subsidiary of Germany's Ruhrgas group for £38 million. The disposal is part of the strategy of tidying the group into three main business areas: fluid carrying systems, engineered seals and aerospace. TI can also expect to receive an additional £4 million, reflecting assets being sold in the course of this year.

The group is selling most of the capital goods division of its thermal technology business, but not Cambridge Vacuum Engineering, a maker of furnaces and electron beam welding machinery.

The businesses being sold had combined sales of £81 million, pre-tax profits of £3 million and net assets of £10 million at the 1991 year end.

Tempus, page 24



Looking forward to profits: Alan Bowkett, new chief of Berisford, hopes the financial restructuring of RCI will plug the drain on resources

Lloyd's names take legal campaign to Brussels

By OUR INSURANCE
CORRESPONDENT

LOSS-MAKING Lloyd's names have turned to the European Commission for redress in the long legal campaign against the insurance market.

As a result, actions against Lloyd's and its constituent agency firms are being pursued in six legal jurisdictions — Britain, America, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and now the European Community. So far, Lloyd's has been successful in seeing off the legal threats.

In the latest legal development, a sample of five names, representing the Lloyd's Deposit Defence Group, yesterday delivered a 100-page complaint against Lloyd's to the European Commission, under the competition rules of Articles 85 and 86 of the Treaty of Rome.

The group is calling for

■ Lloyd's Names have taken their complaint to Europe, alleging self-regulation has been displaced by self-interest in the insurance market, to block the drawdown of deposits

interim measures against Lloyd's, blocking the seizure of names' deposits while the complaint is being considered.

The complaint argues that "the function of self-regulation at Lloyd's has been displaced by that of self-interest", and that this effectively invalidates Lloyd's immunity from suit under the 1982 Lloyd's Act.

A Lloyd's spokesman said the action would be fought "all the way down the line". He said Articles 85 and 86 of the Treaty of Rome were concerned with trade between member states and not with insurance competition. "It is totally unclear what the com-

petition arguments are," said the spokesman. He added: "We are always well aware of Articles 85 and 86."

The complaint outlines the now familiar catalogue of complaints against Lloyd's — that it failed in its supervision of the market, that working names were given preferential access to profitable syndicates, and that names were not kept adequately informed.

Richard Slowe, a partner at SJ Berwin, the law firm representing the names, said the action could potentially benefit all the 10,000 names on the various action groups campaigning for financial redress.

Berisford acts on RCI loss

By ANGELA MACKAY

BERISFORD International, the property and agri-business group, should return to profits this year after plugging the drain on resources caused by Raymer Coffee International, the loss-making commodity trader.

Berisford, under the aegis of its new chief executive, Alan Bowkett, announced a financial restructuring of its 45 per cent-owned subsidiary, whereby it replaces its \$115 million guarantee against RCI's loans with a commitment to pay \$45 million to RCI's banks by end-March.

The group is also paying \$20 million for some of RCI's assets where "it is believed some further limited recovery should be possible in the long term". The consideration will be discharged by a reduction in the secured debt now due from RCI to Berisford.

When its exposure is eliminated, Berisford will make a court petition for the winding-up of RCI.

Storehouse deal takes Ikea out of its natural habitat

By JONATHAN PRYNN

IKEA's assault on the British furniture market has displayed all the ruthless brutality of a Viking raid. The Swedish company opened its first super shed as recently as 1987 but is already vying for the title of the biggest furniture retailer in the United Kingdom.

Three stores are already operating. A fourth, based in Croydon, south London, is due to open soon. The concept is simple and almost unchanging in virtually all the countries in which Ikea operates. Vast stores are established in out-of-town sites, offering a limited range of well-designed, value-for-money furniture made by predominantly Scandinavian manufacturers.

The UK stores average 150,000 sq ft of retail space, dwarfing the sheds of MFI, the largest domestic player, which have a selling space of between 30,000 and 40,000 sq ft. Customers walk through a variety of room settings, jostling down the serial numbers of the items they require. These are then supplied in flat packs from store by the only staff customers will encounter during their visit.

The stores offer an unashamedly Scandinavian shopping experience, down to the reindeer steaks served in

the on-site restaurants. The group already has 86 stores worldwide, with annual sales of 19.4 billion krona (£2.1 billion) in 1990, making it one of the world's largest furniture sellers. The private company is now owned by a Dutch charitable foundation, Stichting Ingefa Foundation (SIF), which is non-profit making and "promotes innovations in architectural and interior design."

The purchase of the loss-making Habitat has left some analysts puzzled as the UK company operates mainly high street sites and has a very different approach to its market. The consensus is that SIF was primarily interested in the profitable French Habitat stores but had to pick up the UK outlets as a job-lot. There seems little scope for a merger of Habitat and Ikea, which are expected to be developed separately under their own well recognised names.

The Habitat purchase leaves the ailing British furniture industry in an even more parlous state. Domestic manufacturers, traditionally small family owned businesses, are being squeezed out by the more modern-looking designs of Scandinavian and east European companies.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Tarmac creates 600 jobs on £100m road orders

TARMAC, the construction group, is to create 600 jobs after winning orders worth £100 million to widen and improve the country's motorways. The biggest order is valued at £53 million for work on the M6 motorway in the Northwest of England, including a new viaduct across the Manchester Ship Canal and the River Mersey. Tarmac will also build the final link of the M3 motorway from London to Southampton, worth £26 million, and widen the congested M25 ring-road.

Although the shares rose 4p to 86p, analysts say the order is only "modest good news" for Tarmac. The City is waiting for the firm to advance its rationalisation programme and to complete the sales of its property and waste disposal businesses. Announcing Tarmac's interim results last month, Neville Simms, chief executive, said the firm hoped to raise £200 million via disposals by the end of the year to raise cash to reduce debts. Tarmac lost £15.1 million pre-tax in its first half of 1992 against £18.2 million profits last time.

IMC back in the black

INTERNATIONAL Media Communications, whose activities range from the Alpine Soft Drinks business to Skyview inflight entertainment systems and videos, is back in the black for the first time since 1985. The USM-quoted company reports a pre-tax profit of £378,000 in the year to end-April, against a loss of £715,000 last time. Turnover, boosted by acquisition and the delivery of the British Airways order for Skyview, advanced to £3.22 million, against £845,000 previously. Earnings were 0.18p a share, against a loss of 0.42p last time.

Umbro cuts 192 jobs

UMBRO Europe, the sportswear manufacturer, is cutting 192 jobs after a slump in demand. The company, which makes the England football strip, is closing its factories at Macclesfield, Cheshire, and Stockport, Greater Manchester, with the loss of 146 jobs. Another 16 jobs are going from warehousing and distribution and 30 administrative staff face redundancy at the headquarters in Wythenshawe, Greater Manchester. Umbro relies on exclusive deals with Europe's top football clubs to generate much of the demand for its football strips.

BCCI help ruled out

NORMAN Lamont has again ruled out compensation for victims of the collapsed Bank of Credit and Commerce International. Keith Vaz and Sir Rhodes Boyson yesterday met the Chancellor to seek government help for depositors. Mr Vaz, Labour MP for Leicester East, said he and Sir Rhodes, Tory member for Brent North, were "bitterly disappointed" that Mr Lamont had not agreed to their request. "The case for compensation for the victims of BCCI is, in my view, unanswerable... the campaign goes on," said Mr Vaz.

Kelt fields on stream

KELT Energy, the oil and gas company, has started full production from two new onshore fields, almost doubling its output in Britain. The Caythorpe gas field and Singleton oilfield will provide about 450 barrels of oil equivalent a day (bpd) for a net total of 850 bpd attributable to Kelt. Gross production managed by Kelt UK will rise about 3,500 bpd. Production from these fields is the culmination of a £10 million development programme. Kelt's partners in Singleton are Lismo, Terebo Petroleum, Brabant Resources and Conroy Petroleum.

Wellcome's choice

WELLCOME Trust, the charity that raised £2.16 billion from a sale of shares in the Wellcome pharmaceuticals group, has appointed eight City institutions — out of more than 230 that approached it — to manage its investments, worth £2.6 billion. They are Baillie Gifford, Fleming Investment Management, Gartmore Pension Fund Managers, Hambros Bank, Henderson Pension Fund Management, Newton Investment Management, Phillips & Drew Fund Management and Schroder Investment Management.

MIN trading jumps

MIDLAND Independent Newspapers, the regional newspaper and magazine publisher acquired by managers from Ralph Ingersoll for £125 million a year ago, reported £3.47 million pre-tax profits for the six months to end-June. There is no comparable figure for the year-earlier period. The company publishes the *Birmingham Post and Mail* and the *Evening Telegraph* in Coventry. Trading profits were £7.3 million, (£1.95 million), on £32.5 million turnover (£31.3 million). Total advertising revenue rose 2.7 per cent.

Palma losses deepen

PALMA Group, the hosiery company, is again passing its dividend as exceptional losses and higher interest costs pushed it deeper into the red. Pre-tax losses rose to £405,000 in the half year to July 26, against £180,000. There was an exceptional loss of £215,000, relating to the carrying costs of seven leasehold properties formerly occupied by the group's retail chain, closed last year. Turnover, affected by rationalisation, fell to £6.41 million (£7.84 million).

Dutch acquisition

SUPPLYLINK International, a joint venture between Sidlaw, the UK oil services company, and Smit Lloyd of the Netherlands, has acquired Gerlach Offshore, a Dutch oilfield logistics service, from Royal Nedlloyd. The deal complements an earlier acquisition of Oilbase Management, based in Great Yarmouth, which provides specialist support to oil exploration companies. Sidlaw and Smit Lloyd have paid £2.03 million for the two acquisitions.

Hong Kong envoys pay timely visit

By COLIN CAMPBELL

THE Hong Kong Chinese are known for their respect of *fung shui* (the art of arranging objects, or being in the right place) and yesterday their timing could not have been better.

Charles Lee, chairman of the Hong Kong stock exchange, Paul Chow, the exchange's chief executive, and Robert Nottle, chairman of the Hong Kong securities and futures commission, just happened to be in London — on the day the Hang Seng index fell 200.07 points.

The three were in town to argue to the City's investment community the merits of investing in Hong Kong with the 21st century in mind. In deference to western eating habits, roast beef, rather than sweet and sour pork, was served for luncheon.

The diplomatic icicles Peking last week hurled at Chris Patten, Hong Kong's governor, and the feathers Peking has ruffled about Mr Patten's plans for wider democracy ahead of 1997, hung heavily in the air.

However, the three argued that Hong Kong had survived crises before, that government and stock exchange authorities were fast improving their laws and regulations to ensure greater protection and fair play; and that 1997, when Hong Kong is handed back to China, should be seen as a process — not an event — and that 1997 was not a threat, but an opportunity and a stepping stone into the next century.

Peking plans to list nine of its largest state enterprises on the Hong Kong stock exchange, with the first expected in June. Since China has established two stock exchanges on its own soil, and seemingly is enjoying the fruits of capitalism, more stock exchanges are possible.

China, Mr Chow suggested, would need a capital injection of between US\$10 billion and \$12 billion in the next two years. Latest economic data showing a growth rate of 10.6 per cent in the first nine months of 1992 makes China one of the fastest growing economies of the world. Hong Kong and the southern part

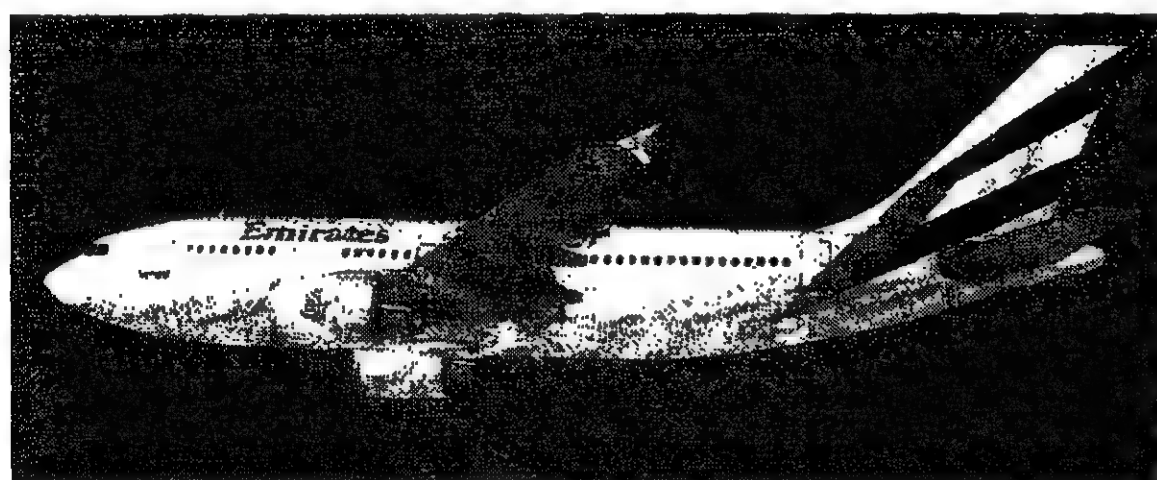
of China has not been called "the Mother of all growth triangles" for nothing. Mr Nottle admitted that while closing Hong Kong's stock market as a typhoon howls across the South China Sea is understandable, closing the market because of Black Monday, 1987, was "the ultimate mistake".

The three mandarins said unacceptable market practices were being stamped out, and protection of minority shareholders' interests was a high priority.

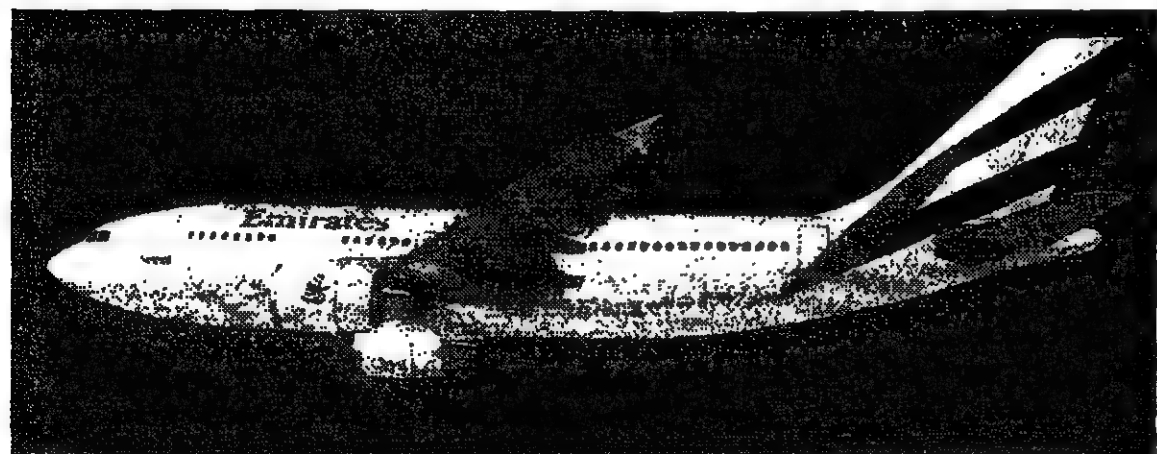
However, insider trading is not a criminal offence. Blowing a public whistle on insider dealing, coupled with a damning public censure that leads to "loss of face", remains the most effective punishment.

With the 21st century in mind, the three wise men from Hong Kong are out to ensure that the current diplomatic cold winds blowing from Peking are not going to spoil Hong Kong's prospects.

Leading article, page 17
Tempus, page 24



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Invesco will pay Drayton Trust £9.5m settlement

■ Institutional investors are set to benefit from a £9.5 million fund settlement for the failed Drayton Consolidated Trust, which increases the cash available for distribution to £19.8 million

By JON ASHWORTH

INVESCO MIM, the fund management company run by Lord Stevens, has agreed to pay £9.5 million in settlement for its management of Drayton Consolidated Trust, the investment trust which foundered earlier in the year.

Invesco is paying Drayton £6.5 million in cash. In addition, it is paying £9.2 million for two unquoted investments valued at £6.2 million, giving Drayton a further £3 million. The move is an embarrassing climb-down for Invesco. The settlement, believed to be unprecedented, will increase the cash available for distribution by £19.8 million.

Invesco MIM was fined £75,000 in November 1991 by the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation (Imro) for an internal accounting failure which led to a £2.7 million shortfall to its client accounts. Imro found problems affecting £220 million in personal equity plan accounts. Invesco MIM was ordered to pay investigation costs of up to £90,000.

Drayton, which specialised in unquoted investments, ran into trouble following the collapse of Alma Holdings, an unquoted confectionery company in which Drayton was the main shareholder. County NatWest Wood Mackenzie and Cazenove were appointed as advisers in February, and have been working on a plan to help shareholders realise their investments.

Drayton had to write off close to £20 million on its

investment in Alma. Due to the illiquid nature of the assets, the advisers believed the only solution was to sell as much as possible and create a new vehicle to take up the remainder and then gradually dispose of them.

Second Consolidated, a new company, has been formed for this purpose. Foreign & Colonial Ventures has been appointed lead manager, with primary responsibility for management and administration. Invesco MIM will assist.

As at October 20, the value of Drayton Consolidated shares was calculated at 243p. Of that, 158p will go to Second Consolidated and 85p will be paid back in cash to shareholders. If the scheme is approved, the first payments are likely in October 1993. Drayton has about 2,000 shareholders of which 85-90 per cent are institutions.

John Webster, a former director of Sun Life, has been appointed chairman of Second Consolidated. Peter Dicks and Peter Gray become directors alongside Nicholas Cobbold, an existing director of Drayton Consolidated. Mr Cobbold said he was pleased a potentially lengthy court battle had been avoided.

Shareholders will meet on November 18 to vote on the proposals. On November 27, they vote on the liquidation of Drayton Consolidated.

Lord Stevens resigned as chief executive of Invesco MIM in August. He remains chairman until April 1993.

Pepe meets bankers on refinancing

By OUR CITY STAFF

PEPE Group, the troubled jeans designer and distributor that is in discussions with certain shareholders regarding the introduction of new equity, is also holding refinancing talks with its bankers.

The USM-quoted company, which warned in the summer that rationalisation and closures are likely to result in losses and substantial provisions, has seen its shares slide from 19p at the start of last week to 11p yesterday, against this year's high of 107p.

The talks are being held against a background of difficult trading conditions and the rationalisation and reorganisation of the group's international operations. A spokesman for the company said it still had the support of its principal bankers.

Novel Enterprises, the Hong Kong textiles group which took a 29.6 per cent stake in Pepe earlier this year, is believed to be involved in the talks to increase Pepe's equity.

Pepe's final results for the year to end-March have already been delayed for some time and it is thought that a full resolution is unlikely for at least a couple of months.

Welpac falls deeper into the red

By PHILIP FANGALOS

THE weak market for do-it-yourself products, plus exceptional costs pushed Welpac, the hardware and electrical goods wholesaler and distributor, deeper into the red at the half-year stage.

In what the company described as the most hostile trading environments in recent memory, pre-tax losses rose to £684,000 in the six months to end-July, (£248,000 loss). The increase in the deficit was exacerbated by an exceptional charge of £273,000, relating to the costs of redundancy, scrapping discontinued stock and site and machinery moves. However, all group companies managed to increase their market shares and turnover, boosted by acquisition, grew to £7.73 million (£4.65 million).

The company said that "vigorous action" had been taken to reduce the cost base, which resulted in group costs being cut by more than £1.1 million on an annualised basis. Gearing was trimmed from 45 per cent to 44 per cent. There is a loss of 0.87p (0.79p) a share. There is again no interim dividend. The shares lost 4p to 48p.

GM chief resigns as losses pile up

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK

ROBERT Stempel yesterday resigned as chairman and chief executive of General Motors after weeks of speculation that the independent directors of America's largest car company were poised to dismiss him.

Two weeks ago, Mr Stempel, 59, who has been with GM for 34 years, was diagnosed as suffering from "elevated blood pressure", a symptom of executive stress. Mr Stempel, an engineer, held the top job in American car making for 26 months and reported net losses in five of the eight quarters as his boss. His tenure is the shortest on record.

GM is expected to announce more red ink this week with \$845 million losses for the third quarter, almost double the second-quarter loss.

Despite a plan to close 21 factories and cut 74,000 jobs by 1995, GM's independent

directors and Wall Street were growing impatient with the pace of change as market share continued to fall. Under Mr Stempel it shrank from 35.1 to 33.7 per cent.

Changes are accelerating. GM will trim six large engineering works into four, which analysts believe will cut 10,000 white-collar jobs by the end of next year, 12 months earlier than planned.

Pressure for change increased this month when two credit-rating agencies put GM's commercial paper under review with the prospect of downgrading it.

Mr Stempel said: "I made this decision in the best interests of the corporation..." He will remain chairman until Monday when a routine board meeting is expected to name John Smale, former chairman of Procter & Gamble, as his successor.



Well suited: Rowland Gee, who announced a recession-beating profit rise to £354,000 for Moss Bros

Moss Bros beats half-time forecast

By MARTIN WALLER, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

THE resilience of the market for formal wear, combined with the company's £8.5 million cash pile, helped Moss Bros Group to beat analysts' forecasts with pre-tax profits of £354,000 (£102,000) in the six months to July 25.

Rowland Gee, managing director, said hire-out of formal dress suits was up 8 per cent on this time last year despite the lack of consumer confidence. He said: "Customers are keeping their little pots of gold for spending on things like good weddings and holidays as a way of lifting the general gloom. In this area they have definitely not economised."

Moss Bros, whose strong position in the formal wear hire market came under attack from competitors a decade ago, had also had the benefit of lifting its market share by 10 percentage points to 38 per cent during the first half.

Mr Gee refused to reveal how much interest was earned but said it was similar to last time, and the profits advance had come from increased sales and margins.

Turnover rose 3 per cent to £23.9 million. Shareholders are rewarded with a maintained dividend of 1.5p. Moss Bros's three main menswear retail businesses, Cecil Gee, Savoy Tailors Guild and Suit Co, were all profitable.

Moss Bros has had to postpone until next year its planned launch of a privilege card for customers, which awards points towards discounts according to how much has already been spent, because of the fast-changing technology involved. The scheme is claimed to be the first one on the high street, following similar deals by petrol stations.

"Retailing is about impulse buying," said Mr Gee. "We didn't want our customers to depend on quarterly statements to know how many points they had accumulated on their cards before deciding whether to enter one of our shops." Under the planned technology, the store card will record any discount points as they are acquired and customers will know as soon as they go to the till.

BUSINESS BUILDING WITH LOMBARD

AYLESFORD SCHOOL is a grant maintained school that prides itself on its facilities. They desperately wanted to upgrade their computer equipment.

But to do so, they needed £120,000. So they went to see their bank manager at NatWest.

"At first, everything seemed straightforward. Then we came up against a problem. The Education Reform Act 1988, Section 57 (4).

The Act indicates that grant maintained schools are not allowed to borrow money.

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Lombard
BUSINESS FINANCE

A member of the National Westminster Bank group

World Bank faces pressure on funding

BY A CORRESPONDENT

AN international network of environmental organisations is calling for suspension of aid funding to the World Bank. The campaign, launched by the Washington-based Environmental Defense Fund, follows the bank's decision last Friday to continue funding the Sardar Sarovar dam on India's Narmada river from April next year.

The decision went against the advice of the independent commission the bank had established under Bradford Morse, former director of the United Nations Development Programme. A report by the commission focused on the dam's social and environmental impact on more than 100,000 people, most of them tribal farmers, who will be flooded out from 90,000 acres of farmland and forest — and urged the bank to step back.

Tony Juniper, of Friends of the Earth, commented: "They have gone too far. If the World Bank won't stop funding disastrous projects like the Narmada dam, British aid money must stop funding the World Bank."

Two hundred and fifty organisations from 37 countries have signed an open letter to the bank, stating that it has proved itself "beyond reform" by its continued support of the project. They will oppose an \$18 billion dollar replenishment of the bank's soft loan fund, the International Development Association, due next year. The World Bank has proposed using International Development Association concessional loans to subsidise the Sardar Sarovar project.

Britain supported funding the project and gives £200 million a year to the World Bank.

Hope in Storehouse for shareholders

WHAT Peter Earl, Tony Clegg and Asher Edelman tried and failed to do to Storehouse. Storehouse has finally, and perhaps inevitably, done to itself. The end of the Storehouse retailing concept, cobbled together by Terence Conran in the 1980s, was a long time coming, widely expected and little mourned. Shareholders have waited a very long time to see a decent return on their capital.

Without Habitat and Richards, there is at last some hope that the long-promised Storehouse jam will be delivered if not tomorrow then in the foreseeable future. There is still much work to be done, but without the distracting complications of the non-core operations, the management can now at least concentrate on developing and growing the two remaining chains.

BHS and Mothercare still have problems of their own — they both made losses in the first half of last year — but the hard work carried out by David Dworkin and his management team is beginning to show. At BHS, this summer's new ranges have impressed analysts, particularly in youth wear, and sales growth rates are beginning to outstrip the competition. Distribution and supply at both chains have also been improved out of all recognition since the shambling early days of Storehouse.

Much of this improvement is already in the share price, however, and, although yesterday's well-received disposals will improve sentiment towards the stock, an instant breakthrough is unlikely. Interim results next week are expected to show a small profit, while pre-tax profits for the year are unlikely to top £40 million. Next year, the results will show a further sharp improvement, though the wide range of market



Downhearted: a Hong Kong broker feels the strain of the 200-point drop in the Hang Seng index yesterday

forecasts reflects uncertainty about the timing of the retail recovery. Profits of £58 million would give 9.5p of earnings, putting the shares on a rating of 17.2 times, about the same level as Marks and Spencer.

One tangible benefit of the disposal, however, is that the 5p dividend will be covered by earnings this year and is safe. Given the high rating, that makes the shares a hold, but not yet a buy.

Hong Kong

THE Hong Kong stock market has lived through at least ten critical points in the past 43 years, ranging from 1949's Communist takeover in Chi-

na, through the Cultural Revolution of 1967 to Black Monday, 1987, when, to Hong Kong's admitted shame, the stock market was closed.

Therefore the latest political blast Peking has visited on the head of Chris Patten, HK's Governor — which knocked 200.07 points off the Hang Seng index to 6,062.47 yesterday — could also turn out to be an opportunity, rather than an event.

China watchers continue to be amazed at the real economic growth that mainland China is achieving. Economic growth in the first nine months of 1992 was 10.6 per cent, and there is nothing like a forecast that double digit

growth will continue for a while yet to concentrate investors' minds.

It is a telling statistic, for a market where the lights are supposed to be going out in less than five years time, that the historic price earnings ratio is 15 times, and that the prospective 1993 market average lies between 10.6 and 13.1 times.

China's obvious appreciation of the virtues of capital-raising bodies such as the Hong Kong stock exchange (and its own two exchanges) suggests Peking will not seriously damage the colony's economic boat. The first of nine Chinese state enterprises is due to be listed on the HK market by mid-1993.

In the past year, the price of a HK stock exchange seat has jumped from HK\$400,000 to HK\$900,000, as foreign brokers increasingly knock on China's back door. There are several foreign groups listed in HK, and 27 Hong Kong groups listed in London. And charistatists insist that the Hang Seng index has solid resistance qualities at about 6,000. Current jitters from Hong Kong present opportunities for those looking to the 21st century.

Lucas

NOTHING was more surprising about the departure of Tony Edwards, former heir-apparent at Lucas Industries,

than the tone in which it was announced. Sir Anthony Gill, combining the roles of chairman and chief executive for at least another year, insists against all the evidence that there has been no boardroom row and then describes his former protégé in terms that suggest he did not leave of his own volition.

The Lucas board has decided he was unsuitable to run the business. Mr Edwards has maintained a dignified silence, and this and his high reputation in the engineering industry suggests Lucas's loss may turn out to be TI Group's gain once he takes up a post at the head of the latter's new expanded aerospace division.

The nature of Mr Edwards' failings at Lucas, if any, are not specified. City speculation is that he was brought in to shake a tree that was in dire need of the tree surgeon's attention and that in such shaking he upset too many people.

Lucas now has to find a new head of the aerospace division and a new heir-apparent. Sir Anthony will lead the group into what the market is gambling will be a bruising battle before too long in a combined role that is still much derided in the City.

All this will make exciting reading in any eventual formal offer document, coming just months after the finance director also walked out. Lucas shares were off 1p yesterday at 106p but have still climbed 13 per cent since the group announced sharply lower profits and 4,000 job losses a fortnight ago.

The shares sell on about 15 times this year's earnings, on the basis of a Smith New Court forecast of £60 million pre-tax that assumes some second-half recovery. The latest boardroom upset only puts them even more into play.

Japanese surplus likely to stay high

FROM REUTERS IN TOKYO

JAPAN'S trade surplus, which grew to a record in the first half of this fiscal year, will remain high until demand for imports recovers strongly, a government report said.

The Economic Planning Agency (EPA) said the structure of Japanese exports had changed from the early 1980s in a way that nearly guaranteed that their value would remain high. Shoji Ojima, the EPA official in charge of the report, said: "In order to curb the trade surplus, we need to increase domestic demand, which the government's economic package announced late August will help stimulate."

Tokyo also needs to make more efforts to open the domestic market to foreign imports, he added.

Japan's unadjusted customs-cleared trade surplus surged to \$52.5 billion in the six months ended September, up from \$39.7 billion. In September alone, it rose to \$12.1 billion (\$9.7 billion).

The report said Japan's imports are expected to be steady to weaker in the short term due to the sluggish economy but will pick up when the economy recovers. But it said a higher yen, which had been considered as damaging Japan's export price competitiveness, had failed to curb the trade surplus recently.

A stronger yen since 1985 had encouraged Japanese manufacturers to shift part of their production overseas and make higher value-added goods at home. Rising dollar-based exports since 1991 were mostly due to such exports. Exports subjected to quotas, especially to the US, had also distorted market-oriented competition.

Ex-Soviet interest may be deferred

FROM REUTERS IN PARIS

THE Paris Club of government creditors this week could exceptionally reschedule interest payments due on ex-Soviet Union debt, a French Treasury official told a conference on Russia.

Patrick Lénain said the deal would translate the desire of the Group of Seven industrial nations to "make a more important effort" on Soviet long-term debt, which he put at about \$70 billion. The Paris Club usually reschedules only debt principal.

M Lénain said: "One possible solution is to include the deferral — the rescheduling — of interest, to push back not just principal repayment but also include the rescheduling of interest. Whatever technique is used, the important thing is to reach a firm, durable agreement, one that will allow confidence to be restored both inside Russia and outside."

M Lénain said Russia's debt was not especially high in per capita terms — \$200 versus \$807 for Hungary — and he saw the problem as one of liquidity rather than solvency.

Thus, the Paris Club did not see the need to write off debt, as it did with Poland last year. He said only three former Soviet republics had agreed to Russia's request to take over ex-Soviet debt service in return for their waiving claims to certain ex-Soviet assets.

The International Monetary Fund expects Russia will need balance-of-payments support of about \$22 billion in 1993, M Lénain said, adding its needs would be greater if it took over responsibility for all the ex-Soviet debt. He said practically all the \$24 billion promised to Russia by the G7 in July had been committed, if debt relief was included.

On Sunday, Jacques Attali, president of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, told a Paris University conference that none had been disbursed, and he denounced the hypocrisy of the West towards Russia.

M Lénain said some credits had been slow to materialise because of political and economic doubts in Russia, plus uncertainty over the cut-off date to be set in coming debt reschedulings. But he said bilateral credits of \$10 billion had been pledged, of which \$8 billion in mainly German, American and French food credits had already been used.

Another French credit covering industrial goods would soon be finalised, he added. A further \$4 billion was on the way from sources such as the IMF, World Bank and European Community. Russia had also benefited from \$9 billion freed through the deferral of debt service by governments and banks.

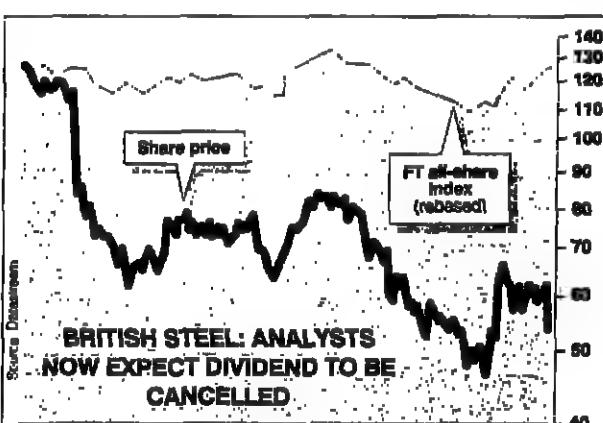
Maastricht and CBI fears leave the City unsettled

WORRIES that the prime minister will call a general election if he fails to get the Maastricht treaty through parliament provided and unsettled day for the City.

All eyes were focused on the foreign exchange where sterling gave up valuable ground against both the dollar and the mark. But the pound's weakness did attract some support for the big overseas earners. Gains were seen in Glaxo 7p to 784p, Cadbury Schweppes 5p to 455p, and Reckitt & Colman 8p to 639p. ICI, reporting third quarter figures on Thursday, also jumped 20p to £10.66, while Wellcome, reporting on the same day, climbed 18p to £10.09. But Reed International, expected to show pre-tax profits up £2.7 million to £88 million on Friday, fell 13p to 581p.

There was little cheer for the rest of the market with dealers worried about today's CBI International Trends survey. The FT-SE 100 index rallied from an early 13 point fall and closed 8.1 down at 2,661.6.

British Steel fell 5p to 544p after announcing plans to cut production by up to 20 per cent to counter further falls in demand. Brokers such as Kleinwort Benson expect both the interim and final dividends to be cancelled. Half-year figures next month are likely to make grim reading and Kleinwort has raised its total of losses for the full year to £350 million. It expects closure costs to add an extra £200 million to the deficit.



Share price and FT all-share index (rebased)

Worries about a cut in the dividend also left Babcock International 4 1/2p lower at 29p, after touching 26p. The group is said to have brought forward its half-year results, expected to show a sharp drop in profits, to later this week.

Lucas Industries held steady at 107p despite news of a boardroom split that is likely to see the departure of Tony Edwards, managing director. Lucas has been the subject of speculative buying in recent weeks with the group regarded as vulnerable to a bid. Mannesmann, of Germany, and TI Group are both seen as possible suitors. TI fell 11p to 307p yesterday after the disposal of part of its capital goods division.

Storehouse, the Habitat and Mothercare retailers, rose 4p to 165p after confirming months of speculation by disposing of its Richards

County NatWest, the stockbroker, says only those clothing and footwear retailers capable of generating sales and keeping one step ahead of the opposition are likely to succeed over the next decade. County says this would include the likes of Storehouse and Country Casuals, unchanged at 124p. But top of its sell list is Burton, 1p firmer at 45p, and Sears, while Next, steady at 108 1/2p, has been removed from its buy list. County remains a short-term seller of Marks & Spencer, unchanged at 343p, and Austin Reed, 3p lower at 190p.

Marley fell 4p to 76p and rival Redland 10p to 342p after BZW cut its profit forecasts. It has cut its pre-tax profit estimate for Marley for this year by £5 million to £10 million and by a similar amount for 1993 to £20 million. Redland's profit for this year has been cut by £6 million to £192 million and for next by £5 million to £195 million.

Tarmac rose 4p to 86p after clinching a £100 million contract with the transport department to improve parts of Britain's motorways. By the close almost 9 million shares had changed hands.

TSB Group eased 1p to 142p after Smith New Court slashed its pre-tax profit forecast for this year by £95 million to £125 million. Arthur Lee rose 7p to 88p on full bid hopes from Carole Engineering, 2p better at 141p.

MICHAEL CLARK

RECENT ISSUES

Chubb Security 189 ...
Linx Printing Techs (130) 156 +6
Tepnel Diagnostics (138) 178 -1
Trinity (120) 137 -4
Vardon (45) 51 ...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Capital Industries N/P (78) 1 ...
EIT Group N/P (17) ...
Greenall N/P (29) 38 -3
Wagon Industrial N/P (33) 24 -3

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:
NMC Group 35p (+7p)
Oxford Int 211p (+19p)
A Lee 89p (+8p)
Prop Security 90p (+7p)
Yorkshire 225p (+15p)
Sloven Estates 125p (+6p)
Albion Fisher 45p (+5p)
Westbury 66p (+4p)
Euro Draney 948p (+50p)
Tarmac 86p (+4p)

FALLS:
Smiths Inds 312p (-9p)
Simon Eng 122p (-10p)
Fortis 171p (-8p)
TI 307p (-11p)
Tomkins 259p (-8p)
Redland 342p (-10p)
Lloyds Abbey 380p (-11p)
Williams Hldgs 277p (-8p)

Closing Prices Page 27

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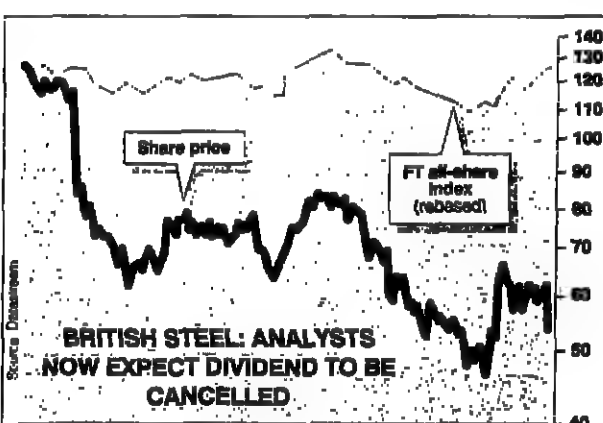
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MICHAEL CLARK

WORLD MARKETS

Dow opens with rise

New York - US shares were mixed in early trade with a bias to the up side. Michael Metz, of Oppenheimer, said: "The market is basically firm, largely due to expectations that we will see favourable developments in the economy." The Dow Jones industrial average rose 8 points to 3216. Advancing shares outnumbered declining issues by more than two to one. General Motors was up 1/4 at 33 1/2 after Robert Stempel, the chief executive officer, resigned.

□ Tokyo - Shares ended lower on a lack of incentives after

barely moving all day. Brokers said that most investors were sidelined ahead of a wave of earnings results from hi-tech firms and central bank meetings here and in Germany. One trader said: "The only topic today was game seven of the Japan Series [baseball championship]." The Nikkei average was down 106.32 points, or 0.62 per cent, to 17,011.33, with an estimated 130 million shares traded.

□ Singapore - Market closed for national holiday. (Reuters)

Hong Kong report, page 21

WALL STREET

Oct 26	Oct 27	Oct 26	Oct 27	Oct 26	Oct 27
Index	Index	Index	Index	Index	Index
Dow Jones	3216	Dow Jones	3216	Dow Jones	3216
S&P 500	1063.25	S&P 500	1063.25	S&P 500	1063.25
Nikkei	17011.33	Nikkei	17011.33	Nikkei	17011.33
Hong Kong	6062.47	Hong Kong	6062.47	Hong Kong	6062.47
Shanghai	1000.00	Shanghai	1000.00	Shanghai	1000.00
London	2661.6	London	2661.6	London	2661.6
Paris	1200.00	Paris	1200.00	Paris	1200.00
Frankfurt	1100.00	Frankfurt	1100.00	Frankfurt	1100.00
Stockholm	100.00	Stockholm	100.00	Stockholm	100.00
Copenhagen	100.00	Copenhagen	100.00	Copenhagen	100.00
Oslo	100.00	Oslo	100.00	Oslo	100.00
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Dan-Air investors down in flames

It might seem in passing strange if tycoon A. anxious to sell the assets of his company to his close friend, tycoon B, were allowed to do so for a nominal sum without first consulting his shareholders, the true owners of the business. For this reason, the full paraphernalia of stock exchange controls governs such disposals, and the larger they are, the tighter are the rules.

Such controls, like all the other rules of the land, are there for a reason, and the decision to supersede them should not be taken lightly. David James took that decision late last week, when he agreed to sell most of the assets of Davies & Newman, the owner of Dan-Air, for only £1, in return for assigning all the debts as well as the potential purchaser, British Airways.

BA was touted as the rescuer of Dan-Air, although those who have had dealings with the redoubtable national carrier may have difficulty viewing it in an altruistic light. The deal was a super-class one transaction, and under stock exchange rules, therefore deserving of the closest scrutiny by shareholders. Mr James is understandably keen to stress his unbroken record of success in company rescues. Davies & Newman shareholders, who are the clear losers here and whose interests Mr James was appointed to protect, may feel that record has been somewhat tarnished.

Those shareholders will be allowed to vote on the company's winding-up but they will not vote on the BA deal because of time constraints, the company and its advisers having been granted the appropriate waiver by the stock exchange's quotations committee. It is not clear to what degree those time constraints were imposed by the banks, the clear winners now assured of repayment of all borrowings.

Dan-Air was undeniably in dire financial straits, with only months of mounting debts to look forward to before income started to come in again. One can only hope that this does not eventually turn out to be too favourable a deal for BA. Davies & Newman shareholders would then have good reason to feel aggrieved. We await with interest the formal documents, hopefully giving a great deal more of the background to the deal.

BA set for Europe

While some Davies & Newman shareholders will be stunned that their chairman can sell off the assets of their business for £1 with no apparent need to confer, holders of British Airways equity will be much happier. If the deal jumps all the regulatory hurdles, BA will have taken a significant step towards sharpening up its troublesome European operations in advance of EC moves to open up Europe's skies to the vigorous breezes of competition. It is by no means clear that BA will be free from the attentions of regulators. The group has some resourceful enemies and may push for EC intervention if British regulators appear to be wavering the Dan-Air merger through.

But the collapse of yet another local carrier should be a signal to the regulators that blocking BA, for example by removing routes and handing them to smaller airlines in the name of competition, seems not to have had a blemish-free track record. Attempting the same in the wake of Dan-Air would be tying BA's hands as it goes into battle with the largely state-owned carriers within the EC. So far, BA looks to be well prepared for the fray. This year, it has acquired modest airlines in France and Germany. Merging part of its operations with Dan-Air's and cutting the costs closer to those of Dan-Air could produce a highly competitive entity, provided of course that the open skies promises of EC nations are to be taken at face value.

Steel industry faces unkindest cuts before it can forge ahead again

Wolfgang Münchau examines the plight of a troubled industry that has to cope with painful decisions to prevent its decline into oblivion

The most surprising aspect about yesterday's British Steel decision to cut output by 20 per cent was not the scale of the cutbacks but that the decision had not been taken earlier. Of all European industries, few are in such desperate trouble as steel. What happened yesterday is only the latest chapter in a long and sorry saga of bad news emanating from the industry.

The main reason behind the decision is massive overcapacity in the steel sector and falling prices. The recession may have contributed in reducing industry's demand for steel products, but it would be too complacent to blame it for everything. The real difficulties this industry is now facing have lingered on for quite a few years. They are also far more fundamental.

The decline in the British steel industry is not without its share of symbolism. If the British industrial revolution began with coal and steel, the simultaneous decline of both these industries may bode ill for Britain's industrial future. The timing of the announcement, so soon after the government's ill-handled assault on the coal industry, is politically delicate and industrially devastating. The decision will inevitably raise the fear that Britain is in an accelerating process of massive de-industrialisation.

The decline in the British steel and coal industries has, indeed, a number of aspects in common other than the pure coincidence of timing. One should, however, not go overboard in viewing the two industries in the same light. The most notable commonality is that, by European standards, Britain is the most efficient producer of coal and steel but seems unable to benefit from this efficiency. The complicated economics of coal and steel throughout the postwar period has resulted in a number of oddities, one being that sometimes efficiency was penalised and inefficiency rewarded.

The production costs for British coal are less than half that for German coal. British Steel is Europe's second-largest most efficient steelmaker. Unlike other European manufacturers, British Steel has had to make do without subsidies — or restructuring aid to use a more polite term — and has also done more than its fair share to cut capacity. One of the more visible and painful measures it has taken was the closure in June of the Ravenscraig steel plant in Scotland, with the loss of 2,000 jobs.

But one crucial difference exists between coal and steel. The main reason for the speed with which the British coal industry declined was government policy, especially the subsidisation of the nuclear power



No way forward: British Steel's Ravenscraig plant in Scotland is chained up after being closed in June

and electricity privatisation. The government is relatively innocent when it comes to steel industry problems. The worst accusation one could levy against it is its refusal to cheat and proffer hidden subsidies to British Steel. This is what has happened in other European countries, and this is to some degree a reason behind the difficulties.

British Steel is not the only company affected, since the steel quandary is not made in Britain, but throughout Europe. In Spain yesterday, tens of thousands Spanish steel workers marched through Madrid in protest against restructuring measures costing 10,000 jobs. In Germany, Thyssen made a similar announcement last week when it decided to cut production by a quarter and introduce short-time working for the last quarter.

The steel industry entered the year in a depressed state and the situation deteriorated markedly since. Domestic demand in Europe declined at a rate faster than the fall of production. MEPS, the Sheffield steel consultancy, wrote in a steel market report in September that "steelmakers have continued to over-produce in the third quarter", despite strong falls in

demand. The report stated that "the outlook for steel demand in the industrialised world is quite depressing".

The rate with which European steel companies presently cut their output, is unlikely to stop the rot of steel prices. In the case of British steel, yesterday's news of a 20 per cent cut in output is likely to have an effect on the market not before next year because of the persistently high level of stocks. Analysts remain deeply sceptical about the outlook even for next year.

A crucial factor behind the present difficulties is the surge of cheap imports into the markets, which have led to the extraordinary decline in steel prices, and the inability of European manufacturers to cut output in response to rising stocks. But then, we have all been there before. In the 1970s during Europe's first steel crisis, then, Europe was hit by two oil shocks and cheap imports from Japan. Europe's reaction to this crisis was determined. Under the Davignon plan, European countries were to reduce their steelmaking capacity to a level to meet demand. Subsidies were to be granted to help this restructuring process, but not to distort the market. Eventually, the market for steel was to become

"normal", a free market without state subsidies.

With a few exceptions, this was more or less accomplished by the late 1980s. Some subsidies still exist, but all in all, the market has been liberalised. Steel prices rose until 1989 and at that time, it was thought that the industry had essentially made the necessary transition to a modern business.

That view turned out to be a mistake. Since 1989, prices have fallen. The liberalisation of the market meant an increase in cheap imports, especially from South Korea and more recently from eastern Europe. In Germany, east European imports were 900,000 million tonnes last year, and this year the figure is expected to rise to 2.3 million tonnes. This may be small, given that the size of the EC production of crude steel is presently more than 130 million tonnes per annum, but the imports have important price implications. Christine Sharp, of MEPS consultancy, said that "it does not need large import volumes to affect market prices". This condition coincides with a structural and a temporary problem: the structural problem is the industry's inability to adjust output levels when needed; the temporary problem is the recession.

Britain has good reason to feel exasperated about European steel policy. Earlier this year, the European Commission approved a controversial plan by the French government to inject capital into Usinor to help the company with an ambitious cost-cutting and restructuring plan. The German steel industry, by far Europe's largest, conceded a 6.4 per cent wage settlement, thereby driving up its costs and its problems. Cheap imports are the industry's favorite scapegoat. When Usinor suffered a Fr360 million loss, it blamed foreign importers who swamped the EC market with cheap steel in a manner "incompatible with fair competition". The devaluation of sterling and the lira further distorted the competitive position in favour of Britain and Italy and to the disadvantage of Germany and France.

Manufacturers are now calling on the EC for help. Earlier this month, the heads of Europe's 15 largest steel companies wrote to the commission to propose a massive restructuring programme costing 4 billion euros (£3.2 billion). Up to 50,000 workers could lose their jobs, and the EC has been called upon to provide aid to help finance these redundancies, or, in other words, to provide the subsidies to end all subsidies. Essentially, they are asking Europe to revert to precisely those policies whose persistent application over a period of decades failed to help the industry escape its terminal decline.

Perhaps even more important, the EC steelmakers are now putting pressure on the Community to agree to anti-dumping controls against east European imports. The trouble with that, however, is that steel is one of the few products eastern European countries are good at manufacturing. In addition, they are also cost-efficient, at least in comparison with western Europeans. The best development aid western Europe can give eastern Europe is not credits or even charitable donations, but free and open trade, especially in agriculture and steel. If eastern Europe's economic reform efforts fail or falter, then this will be related, to a large extent, to inefficiency, not of its own industry but of western Europe's. The worst the EC can do is to protect its own market for steel, and then spend vast amounts of money to help eastern Europe's restructuring.

Industry ministers will discuss the steel emergency at length next month. They should resist the industry's call for a "Davignon 2" package. Steel is one of the most political of industries, and it's demands could still carry greater weight than the fundamental geo-economic realities of the east European economic reform process and, in particular, important east-west European trade.

At the same time, it cannot be denied that Europe's steel industry has run aground for the second time in 20 years and that past policies have failed. The industry will have to make a very good case indeed to be bailed out for a second time. Otherwise, the EC will have to get used to the idea that others are better at making steel, and that Europe's indigenous industry will slowly but surely wither away.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

The party's over...

THE perils of splashing out on high-profile corporate sponsorship are being brought home to both British Steel and British Coal. Yesterday's announcement of a steel production slump, and the consequent prospect of dividend cuts, jarred with reports from Rio of the British Steel sponsored round-the-world yacht race. The sponsorship, started in 1989 when British Steel was profitable, is costing about £2 million over six years. Meanwhile, with miners at Wembley stadium — and elsewhere — distributing leaflets against pit closures on Saturday, British Coal executives were safely inside entertaining corporate guests at the rugby league world cup final between Britain and Australia — having paid £750,000 for four years sponsorship. "Preparations for the yacht race were already too far advanced for us to pull out in 1990-1," says British Steel, speaking about a year when profits plunged, with further losses in 1991-2. British Coal insists it faced a similar dilemma. Its sponsorship began four years ago and ends next year. It will not, the company says, be renewed. "Rugby is synonymous with the coalfields. We've never had protests. However, we feel the expenditure can't be justified in today's climate," a spokesman adds.

Loss of innocence

THE teenage scribbler is not so teenage any more, at least according to the latest *Who's*

habitat



Who of *Analysts* compiled by Price Waterhouse and Citigate, the financial PR firm. The third edition lists 1,158 analysts. Some 45 per cent of the 658 who gave their ages were between 23 and 32, but the average age now, says researcher Justine Samuel, of Citigate, is 30, against 25 two years ago. Despite the recent flurry of high-profile job switches, Samuel says the recession means analysts are staying longer in the same jobs. "They are still tending to sit tight. The average stay is at least two years which is close to the national average." In order to remind analysts of the good old days, at the launch of the directory yesterday there was a prize draw for participating analysts with a crate of champagne going to Vigneesh Padiachy, a packaging and media analyst at BZW. After being informed of his win by the *City Diary*, Mr Padiachy happily declared that he would save the champagne to drink on November 8 when he celebrates his 27th birthday.

Notice seen in a curtain shop in Woodley, near Reading. "Unattended children will be sold into slavery"

Hall at the helm

NIKKO Europe, the Japanese owned bank, has a new chairman, John Cunningham, ex-Courts, retired from the post on Friday at the age of 66 and has been succeeded by one of the firms managing directors, baronet Sir John Hall, thereby continuing Nikko's tradition of being one of the most western of all Japanese banks in London. "It employs 120 people, 110 of them Anglo-Saxon," says one insider. Hall, ex-Schroders and Bank of America, as well as ex-Eton and Trinity College, Oxford, should boost that image. He has, however, been with Nikko for three years and his new job will reduce his weekly workload from five days to four. "Policy and strategy will now be my chief concern," says Hall, aged 60. Asked what that strategy is likely to be he replies: "We will continue to expand. One area for expansion will be into continental Europe where we have not done an awful lot, another will be to develop areas of international activity like treasury." In terms of assets, Nikko is, he adds, already ranked 20th in the UK league table of banks, and is the largest Japanese owned bank registered in Britain, ahead of Nomura, Daiwa and Yamachi.

CAROL LEONARD

Golden opportunity in Hong Kong

From Mr Gula Lahvani

Sir, I read with interest and encouragement your item on the economic success of the Asia Pacific region (October 21). I hope that it has awakened your readers not just to the educational potential the area offers UK companies, but to the real possibilities it has as a geographic base for UK business.

Two years ago Binatone moved its headquarters from the UK to Hong Kong. Although the strategic focus of the group is still on EC countries, the move was necessary to take full advantage of the single European market.

The UK has many attributes, but it does not possess the renown Hong Kong has acquired as the world's centre for electronics innovation.

One of the fundamental reasons for its success is China, where Binatone has been present for 25 years. As well as having its labour force an hour away from Hong Kong, China possesses an abundance of land at low rents. Shenzhen is one such area of the Republic

which has economic laws designed to encourage investment. As a consequence it has grown to be a mini replica of Hong Kong in just ten years.

It is such Chinese activity which should dispel doubts about the commercial future of Hong Kong when handed back to the Chinese in 1997. More importantly, it represents the potential the colony possesses with China behind it, both politically and economically.

What Binatone has done could be achieved by any UK company that is looking to achieve quality yet bring its costs down with volume production. The Asia Pacific region should be regarded not only as a lesson in good business practices but as also an opportunity to expand UK Limited.

Yours faithfully, GULU LAHVANI, Hong Kong chairman, Binatone Electronics International, Central Plaza, 16 Harbour Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong.

Taking the long-term view on pensions

From S.D. Farmer

Sir, The chairman of the Pension Law Review Committee (Letters, October 20) quite understandably emphasises the vital importance of the security of pension entitlement to members of occupational pension schemes. This reflects inter alia the long-term nature of pension arrangements.

An example of what can be involved is illustrated by one of our former employees, who retired almost 35 years ago. He will be 100 on 12 Novem-

ber and has been a member of our pension fund since he joined Royal London's service on 15 February 1909. I suspect that 83½ years' membership — and still going strong — will take some beating.

Yours faithfully, S.D. Farmer FCI, Secretary, Royal London Insurance, The Royal London Mutual Insurance Society Ltd, Royal London House, Middleborough, Colchester, Essex.

Investors' misgivings on computerised share records are justified

From Dr Stephen Castell

Sir, Your many readers' letters before and after Sir Andrew Hugh Smith's recent article on Taurus (October 22) indicate the strength and scope of individual investors' misgivings about the probity and legal security of "dematerialised" record-keeping for shares.

These legitimate concerns show that there has not been nearly enough informed discussion on the practicalities and, equally, the legal principles involved, and it is remarkable that such a "sea-change" system has developed so far (notwithstanding delays) "on the quiet", as it were.

In recent years, I carried out for HM Treasury a study of the position of computer evidence under English Law (The *APPEAL Report*, Castle/CCTA, Eclipse Publications, 1990) and there highlighted a key issue: the need for computer systems and operational practices properly capable of forensic scrutiny, delivering undoubted evidential reliability.

It is, frankly, not clear to me if Taurus as it is presently constituted meets this requirement.

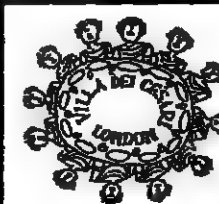
Yours faithfully, STEPHEN CASTELL, Castell Computer and Systems Telecommunications Ltd, 20 Grange Road, Wickham Bishops, Wiltshire, Essex.

From A.M. Dawson

Sir, Regarding Sir Andrew Hugh Smith on Taurus: no way do I want my portfolio to be held by a broker or a bank — it's my own private information/data, which I do

not want to share with a third person. How this can be claimed as an advantage over the present system is a mystery to me. I see it as just another way for banks and brokers to

charge extra fees! Yours faithfully, A.M. DAWSON, 25 The Shimmings, Boxgrove Road, Guildford, Surrey.



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No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
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2	Wentworth	Banking	Down
3	Wentworth	Banking	Down
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39	Wentworth	Banking	Down
40	Wentworth	Banking	Down

E1,000 MATCH THE SHARES

If you have ticked off your eight share in our Match The Shares game today, claim your prize by telephoning 0254 532772 between 10.00am and 3.30pm (see the Sunday Times for full details).

Two winners equally share the Portfolio Plus prize of £2,000. They are Mr V Emery of Eastleigh, Hants and Mr G Wootton of Clevedon, Avon.

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

No.	Company	Price	%	Yld	P/E
1	Bank of Scotland	220	-2	5.5	13.5
2	Bank of Scotland	220	-2	5.5	13.5
3	Bank of Scotland	220	-2	5.5	13.5
4	Bank of Scotland	220	-2	5.5	13.5
5	Bank of Scotland	220	-2	5.5	13.5
6	Bank of Scotland	220	-2	5.5	13.5
7	Bank of Scotland	220	-2	5.5	13.5
8	Bank of Scotland	220	-2	5.5	13.5
9	Bank of Scotland	220	-2	5.5	13.5
10	Bank of Scotland	220	-2	5.5	13.5
11	Bank of Scotland	220	-2	5.5	13.5
12	Bank of Scotland	220	-2	5.5	13.5
13	Bank of Scotland	220	-2	5.5	13.5
14	Bank of Scotland	220	-2	5.5	13.5
15	Bank of Scotland	220	-2	5.5	13.5
16	Bank of Scotland	220	-2	5.5	13.5
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22	Bank of Scotland	220	-2	5.5	13.5
23	Bank of Scotland	220	-2	5.5	13.5
24	Bank of Scotland	220	-2	5.5	13.5
25	Bank of Scotland	220	-2	5.5	13.5
26	Bank of Scotland	220	-2	5.5	13.5
27	Bank of Scotland	220	-2	5.5	13.5
28	Bank of Scotland	220	-2	5.5	13.5
29	Bank of Scotland	220	-2	5.5	13.5
30	Bank of Scotland	220	-2	5.5	13.5
31	Bank of Scotland	220	-2	5.5	13.5
32	Bank of Scotland	220	-2	5.5	13.5
33	Bank of Scotland	220	-2	5.5	13.5
34	Bank of Scotland	220	-2	5.5	13.5
35	Bank of Scotland	220	-2	5.5	13.5
36	Bank of Scotland	220	-2	5.5	13.5
37	Bank of Scotland	220	-2	5.5	13.5
38	Bank of Scotland	220	-2	5.5	13.5
39	Bank of Scotland	220	-2	5.5	13.5
40	Bank of Scotland	220	-2	5.5	13.5

BREWERIES

No.	Company	Price	%	Yld	P/E
1	Adnams	100	-1	5.0	15.0
2	Adnams	100	-1	5.0	15.0
3	Adnams	100	-1	5.0	15.0
4	Adnams	100	-1	5.0	15.0
5	Adnams	100	-1	5.0	15.0
6	Adnams	100	-1	5.0	15.0
7	Adnams	100	-1	5.0	15.0
8	Adnams	100	-1	5.0	15.0
9	Adnams	100	-1	5.0	15.0
10	Adnams	100	-1	5.0	15.0
11	Adnams	100	-1	5.0	15.0
12	Adnams	100	-1	5.0	15.0
13	Adnams	100	-1	5.0	15.0
14	Adnams	100	-1	5.0	15.0
15	Adnams	100	-1	5.0	15.0
16	Adnams	100	-1	5.0	15.0
17	Adnams	100	-1	5.0	15.0
18	Adnams	100	-1	5.0	15.0
19	Adnams	100	-1	5.0	15.0
20	Adnams	100	-1	5.0	15.0
21	Adnams	100	-1	5.0	15.0
22	Adnams	100	-1	5.0	15.0
23	Adnams	100	-1	5.0	15.0
24	Adnams	100	-1	5.0	15.0
25	Adnams	100	-1	5.0	15.0
26	Adnams	100	-1	5.0	15.0
27	Adnams	100	-1	5.0	15.0
28	Adnams	100	-1	5.0	15.0
29	Adnams	100	-1	5.0	15.0
30	Adnams	100	-1	5.0	15.0
31	Adnams	100	-1	5.0	15.0
32	Adnams	100	-1	5.0	15.0
33	Adnams	100	-1	5.0	15.0
34	Adnams	100	-1	5.0	15.0
35	Adnams	100	-1	5.0	15.0
36	Adnams	100	-1	5.0	15.0
37	Adnams	100	-1	5.0	15.0
38	Adnams	100	-1	5.0	15.0
39	Adnams	100	-1	5.0	15.0
40	Adnams	100	-1	5.0	15.0

BUILDING, ROADS

No.	Company	Price	%	Yld	P/E
1	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
2	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
3	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
4	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
5	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
6	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
7	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
8	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
9	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
10	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
11	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
12	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
13	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
14	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
15	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
16	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
17	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
18	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
19	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
20	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
21	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
22	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
23	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
24	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
25	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
26	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
27	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
28	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
29	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
30	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
31	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
32	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
33	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
34	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
35	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
36	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
37	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
38	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
39	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
40	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0

Early falls checked

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began October 19. Dealings end on Friday, 26. Settlement day is November 9. Forward margins are permitted on two previous business days. Prices quoted are at market close, 1.15pm. Prices are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is re-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

No.	Company	Price	%	Yld	P/E
1	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
2	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
3	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
4	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
5	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
6	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
7	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
8	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
9	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
10	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
11	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
12	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
13	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
14	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
15	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
16	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
17	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
18	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
19	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
20	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
21	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
22	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
23	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
24	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
25	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
26	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
27	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
28	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
29	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
30	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
31	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
32	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
33	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
34	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
35	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
36	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
37	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
38	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
39	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
40	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0

BUSINESS SERVICES

No.	Company	Price	%	Yld	P/E
1	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
2	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
3	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
4	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
5	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
6	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
7	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
8	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
9	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
10	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
11	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
12	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
13	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
14	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
15	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
16	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
17	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
18	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
19	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
20	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
21	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
22	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
23	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
24	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
25	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
26	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
27	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
28	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
29	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
30	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
31	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15.0
32	Amey	100	-1	5.0	15

MANAGEMENT

The collapse of MMI has triggered a re-think in liability cover

Insuring the community

The demise of Britain's ninth largest insurance company has summoned the memory of Corporal Jones to the corridors of town and county halls. His cry of "don't panic" sounds as unconvincing from public sector managers as it did when the *Dad's Army* veteran uttered it.

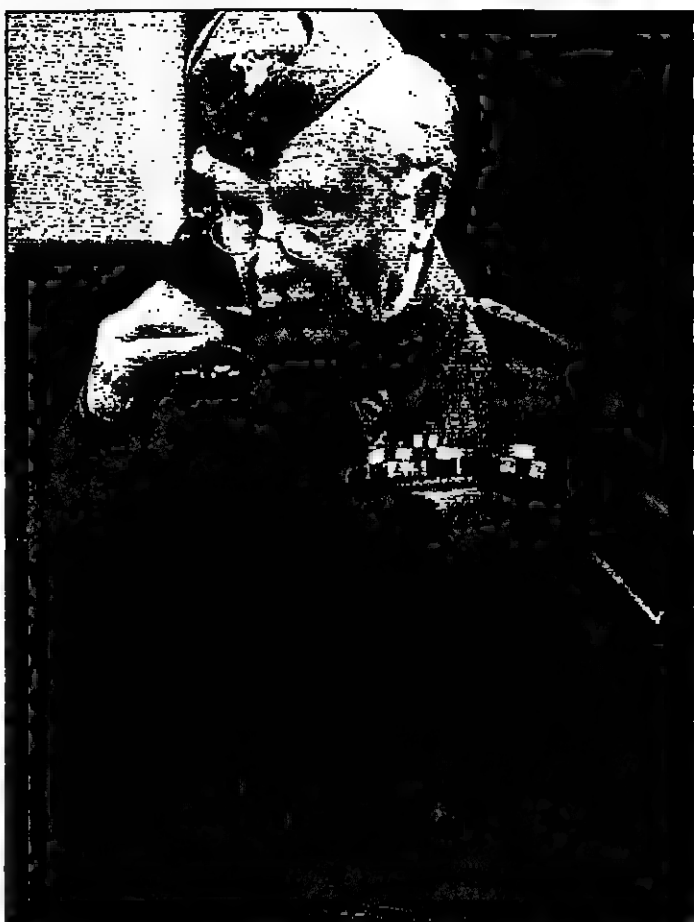
The failure of Municipal Mutual Insurance (MMI) has raised another and more menacing ghost, too. In the shape of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI). No one suggests that BCCI's problems are the result of anything illegal, but the parallels for public managers are too stark to be ignored.

In both cases clear warnings were given but largely ignored and when the collapses came, almost everyone was taken by surprise. The shock was followed by the realisation that nothing would ever be the same again. Treasurers who had relied on BCCI as a guaranteed source of high interest on short term deposits, basing their faith in its Bank of England registration, have been forced to enquire more closely into the bona fides of the banks in which they place funds.

When MMI suspended the payment of claims and stopped issuing or renewing policies on October 1, it signalled a change of culture as profound as anything brought about by the failure of BCCI. MMI is paying claims again while talks on its future continue, but even if its business is transferred public sector insurance will have to change.

MMI, founded in 1903 by local authorities to provide cheap insurance cover for councils and schools, in the early 1980s it adopted a more aggressive approach to sales which gave it the monopoly of the market for public liability cover. MMI guaranteed to better any quote offered by a rival and, at the same time, refused to allow councils to take voluntary excesses. The result was that councils came to regard MMI as the only place to turn for insurance. As premiums rose some councils increasingly adopted a policy of ensuring that claims matched premiums.

Colin Hamling, a liability under-



Wise words: Corporal Jones whose advice was 'don't panic'

writer with St Paul International Insurance, the United Kingdom arm of the American insurance group of the same name, told a recent seminar organised by councils that they were to blame for much of their plight. "Councils have divided into two schools of thought," he said. "One was 'if I have to pay this premium I will get it back in claims', while the other said 'I will get the cheapest quote possible and do as little as possible on my own behalf'."

Both attitudes displayed a fundamental misunderstanding of the role of insurance and demonstrated the need for a change of culture. Ian Ward, finance officer of the Association of District Councils, summed up the situation: "Just as it took BCCI to get decent Treasury

practice into local government, it looks as though it has taken MMI to get good insurance practice."

According to both men, the way forward is for councils to adopt the twin strategies of reducing their exposure to risk, and reducing their insurance costs by more self insurance. Ken Kennedy, chairman of the Association of Local Authority Risk Managers (Alarm) and head of risk management at Surrey County Council, says that councils could do more to cut accidents and damage. Replacing broken paving stones can stop so-called "trip and slip" claims which can run to £100,000 each. The cost of the extra work can be met by savings from insurance premiums.

Mr Kennedy argues that the moral responsibility of local government to safeguard the community should be emphasised to harness the natural desire of public servants to benefit their communities. Local people, too, can help to keep an eye on schools and other municipal assets out of working hours in the spirit of neighbourhood watch schemes. Most important of all, he says, is for public managers to follow Corporal Jones's advice and "don't panic".

Richard Paver, director of Finance and Administration at Northamptonshire County Council, says that councils can protect the public purse by making sure that they cannot be sued for negligence if things go wrong. Rigorous inspection of highways, for example, will ensure that claims, which in law must be based on proving negligence, cannot succeed.

Northamptonshire has not used MMI for a decade having opted to set up its own internal insurance fund which now covers it for the first £750,000 of any loss. Cover for catastrophes is provided by top-up insurance policies. The county took professional advice from insurance brokers Sedgwick James, but Mr Paver concedes that district councils will probably still need insurance cover to guard against almost all potential losses.

Local authority associations representing county, district and metropolitan authorities are investigating the possibility of setting up group policies, such as the one by the National Association of Local Councils through Cornhill offering blanket cover to all parish councils. Bill Taylor, Sedgwick James' local government adviser, says that, after years of being excluded from the local government market by MMI's "predatory pricing policy", insurance companies are reluctant to test the water. His advice is to get a good broker.

Mr Kennedy is not so sure. "The insurance world knows we are in trouble and they sense there is a killing to be made. Corporal Jones is not a bad role model after all."

DOUGLAS BROOM

is The author is assistant editor of Public Finance and Accountancy

Resisting rhetoric that prevents promotion

Women in the public sector still find the route to the top barred to them, says Margaret Hodge



Now that we are in the depths of a recession it is easy to forget that just two years ago we believed we faced an imminent labour shortage. Experts were predicting a demographic time bomb with a rapid decline in the number of school-leavers. This led both employers and the government to look for new ways to entice women back to work and to examine how more women could be trained and promoted.

For those involved in gender equality it seemed that economic necessity rather than political commitment would finally provide the breakthrough. However, the recession has put paid to our hopes.

In spite of growing unemployment, more women of working age have paid jobs in the United Kingdom than anywhere else in Europe except Denmark. Forecasts suggest that of every ten new jobs created in the next five years, eight will be taken by women, many of whom have family responsibilities.

The tradition of women working in local government is long established, not just in part-time low-paid jobs as cleaners or home helps but as social workers, librarians and teachers. This tradition may reflect the belief that women are good with numbers. Yet even in the "caring" jobs, the invisible ceiling which acts as a barrier to the promotion of women in the public sector seems as impenetrable as ever.

For example, a government study of social services in 1990 found that although 87 per cent of people working in the social services were women, only 10 per cent of directors of social services were female; of these, half worked in London.

The picture among local authority chief executives is even more depressing. Only ten of the 542 chief executives are women — yet even this record is better than that of the private sector.

All over Britain, local government employees are proclaiming themselves champions of equal opportunity. If all they do is sign

up to Opportunity 2000 or add a line to job advertisements, it seems fraudulent.

Breaking the barriers to promotion in the present economic climate is not easy. Public spending cuts, coupled with poll-tax and council-tax capping, mean that white male managers are even more determined to hang on to their jobs. In fact the financial constraints become an excuse for the failure to tackle the barriers to promotion for women.

This sort of nonsense must be vigorously challenged. Even when resources are scarce, the culture and nature of the workforce can be changed. What is necessary is the will to achieve this. But the cultural changes required to promote equality remain immense. First, people tend to promote others with whom they feel at ease — people in their own image. So men continue promoting men.

Second, men in power tend to display a passive resistance to

promoting women. They mouth support for women gaining top jobs but take no action. Third, it may be that the changes required are too threatening to most men, whose behaviour and social interaction are changed by the presence of women.

Recognising and overcoming these cultural barriers is an enormous task. Training everyone to manage the diversity that an equal opportunity policy demands will have to become a priority. At the same time, some easy and effective measures can be taken. Simple monitoring of the workforce is a powerful way of demonstrating inequality. Timetables to increase the number of women managers is effective if targets are monitored.

Concentrating training resources on women to help them develop their careers is important. But the world of work is based on the assumption that the typical worker is a man. Our legislation on equality is similarly framed on the assumption that the norm for work is a man's.

So we continue to resist the introduction of flexible working hours for managers. Similarly, job sharing for managers is generally considered impossible. Maternity packages are considered a luxury at a time of financial cuts and career breaks for women are rare.

When Labour authorities embarked on equal opportunities policies ten years ago, they were pilloried in the gutter press. Yet many of those measures have become today's orthodoxy. Workplace nurseries, equal opportunity recruitment and monitoring are recognised as necessary for progress.

But the battle against discrimination is far from won. We still need a strong and clear determination by both men and women to change. Only when that will to change is there will we be able to convert a theoretical commitment to fairness and equality into a practical reality.

The author is leader of Islington council

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

We are seeking a capable leader with drive. Candidates presently earning less than £60k determination and vision who can take us per annum are unlikely to have the relevant forward.

Services are currently provided on five main sites by 5,500 staff, in hospital and community settings, for the population of the City of London, the London Borough of Hackney, and for referrals from across the UK and Europe.

Working with the Chairman and the Board you will be an experienced manager, able to provide a dynamic yet sensitive leadership role.

Candidates must understand the parameters of business in a health and patient environment.



experience, but this should not deter positive and convincing candidates.

Sir Alfred Sheppard - Chairman, will be delighted to talk quite informally to interested applicants. To make arrangements to do this please contact Miss S McIlroy, Director of Human Resources, St Bartholomew's at Smithfield, London EC1A 7BE. Tel: 071 601 8117.

Closing date for receipt of applications: 20th November 1992.

Shortlisting should be completed by 27th November 1992 and interviews will be held early December at a date to be agreed.

Committed to Equal Opportunities

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Circa £55,000 : Performance Related Pay : Lease Car

A Chief Executive and Executive Director is required who will be responsible to the Authority for the full performance of the organisation.

The overall aim is to identify the health needs and priorities of the local population and commission care to meet these needs.

Characteristics of the organisation include:

- A budget of over £100m to serve a population of 303,000.
- Well established commissioning and contracting procedures working closely with other statutory Authorities, Local Industry, Universities and Provider Units.
- Co-terminosity with FHS and Local Authority with whom there are joint plans.
- A very strong managerial team.
- A 'gainer' in terms of capitation and an increase in financial resources arising from earlier policies.

The appointment offers the opportunity to create and lead a successful organisation looking to the further development of patient care through the Health Service reforms. The successful candidate will have demonstrated proven leadership ability in a complex organisation. Experience of the Health Service in the new environment of the reformed NHS would be an advantage.

Further information and application package are available from: Mrs S Wilcox, Head of Personnel, Coventry Health Authority, Christchurch House, Greyfriars Lane, Coventry CV1 2GQ or Tel: (0203) 844027.

Closing date: 19th November 1992.

Date for Selection Interviews: 1st and 2nd December 1992.



PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

The North West London TEC assists local businesses and individuals to prosper through the development of a successful training and enterprise culture. We are committed to introducing Total Quality to our business procedures, both internal and external.

QUALITY AND EVALUATION MANAGER £21,000 pa
We now need an ambitious, self-motivated individual to lead on delivery. The following skills / attributes will be essential: Thorough knowledge of TQM theory, principles and best practice. Staff and project management skills. Systems and process analysis skills, including IT. Team building and communication skills. Experience of the training, education and business environment would be desirable but not essential. Ref QM1

FINANCE/ACCOUNTS MANAGER £18,000 - £22,000pa
We are seeking an ambitious, self motivated individual to manage a small finance / IT team. Responsibilities will include management of TEC budgets, development of management information systems. The successful candidate should possess well-developed management and communication skills with experience in a finance / IT environment. Ref FAM1

An application form and full job description will be available by written request, please quote above refs to: Miss V Hibbert, North West London Training and Enterprise Council, Kirkfield House, 118-120 Station Road, Harrow, Middlesex, HA1 2PL.
Closing date for return of applications forms: 10/11/92. We are aiming to become an equal opportunities employer.



Lincoln College, Oxford Development Director

The College is seeking a first rate fund-raiser to lead a Development Programme to follow a successful EGM Campaign, which will end in July 1993.

Applications are invited from men and women with a proven fund-raising record, an outgoing personality, and entrepreneurial and management skills. They should be capable of presenting a project at board room level. A graduate would be preferred. A five-year contract, with the possibility of renewal, is offered.

Total remuneration up to £35,000 pa depending on experience.

Letters of application with full CVs and details of two referees (all in duplicate) should be sent in confidence by 13th November to Alan Finch, Charity Appointments, 3 Spital Yard, London E1 6AQ.

Charity Appointments
A registered charity serving the voluntary sector.

Director of Government & Political Affairs

A leading London-based communication consultancy seeks an experienced, top level executive to head up its government and political affairs unit. Knowledge of Whitehall and Westminster essential, together with the wider aspects of successful lobbying.

Must be capable of working at top level in both politics and business, and of leading and building the unit.

Replies to Box No: 5372



OPERA page 30
Wexford wan: One of the cast of Gli equivoci, an opera not much enjoyed by Rodney Milnes

ARTS

MUSIC page 31
Benjamin Britten: is his an example that today's composers should be following?



GALLERIES: Richard Cork on a unique opportunity to explore the work of Poussin, supreme 17th-century classicist

So good, Poussin painted it twice



A tale from Tasso, twice over: Poussin's *Tancréd and Erminia* in the original version, owned by the Hermitage, St Petersburg (detail, left), and the later painting, which normally hangs in the Barber Institute, Birmingham University

Slashing her hair with a sword, the weeping Erminia prepares to bind Tancréd's wounds. The recklessness of her desperate gesture is startling, and conveys the full extent of the Saracen princess's love for the Christian knight. Although Tancréd seems to be dying after his victorious but punishing battle with the pagan giant Argantes, he opens his eyes in a sigh which prompts Erminia to try and save his life.

This, then, is the intensely dramatic moment seized on by Nicolas Poussin (1594-1665) in one of his most potent paintings. The canvas is normally to be found at the Hermitage, where it has long been regarded as a sublime manifestation of 17th-century painting. But now *Tancréd and Erminia* has travelled from St Petersburg to Birmingham, where Richard Verdi is director of the Barber Institute at Birmingham University, which owns Poussin's slightly later version of the same subject. So he decided to bring the two paintings together, and set them in the context not only of Poussin's other work but European art of the period.

The result is profoundly illuminating. Verdi allows us to trace Poussin's development as a young, ambitious and often very angry French painter who had made Rome his permanent home in 1624. Soon after he settled there, his painting of *The Deposition* showed just how much incandescent emotion he could bring to a religious theme.

Also on loan from the Hermitage, this harrowing picture places the stricken figures beneath a dark,

bleak sky. While St John staggers under the burden both of Christ's body and his own grief, the Virgin seems almost demented as she hangs over her son's inert form. There is nothing remotely reassuring about the pallor of his flesh. This cadaverous figure may well have been based on a real corpse, and two distraught putti (cherubs) give vent to paroxysms of distress as they howl and clasp Christ's leg in a futile attempt to resuscitate him.

Poussin, however, had no wish to confine himself to religious subjects alone. Enormously well-read and erudite, he decided in the late 1620s to tackle a romantic episode from *Jerusalem Delivered* by the 16th-century Italian poet Torquato Tasso. Poussin's fiery temperament did not allow him to settle for a lyrical moment from Tasso's narrative. He determined instead to depict the disturbing moment when the enchantress Armida, having lulled Rinaldo to sleep, draws a dagger and prepares to assassinate the handsome warrior. But Poussin, with great daring, goes further. Even as she lunges forward with her weapon, moving so venetiously that her draperies billow behind like a galleon's sails in a high wind, Armida's hand touches the fingers of the man she wants to kill.

At that very instant, a sensual charge runs through her. Overcome by his beauty, she allows a resolute putto to pull back her dagger-bearing arm and stay the weapon's course. Hatred turns to love. Poussin celebrates this revelatory moment by letting Armida's subliminal hair chime with the hot orange of Rinaldo's breeches, as well as the russet plume surmounting his splendidly burnished helmet.

'Hanging side by side, surely for the first time in their long history, the two canvases prove how radically Poussin revised his interpretation'

Nothing in the bare segment of landscape behind is allowed to detract from the dynamism of the tightly-knit, almost sculptural figure-group. When Poussin turned his attention to Tasso's story about Tancréd and Erminia, though, he let the surrounding countryside play a more eloquent role in conveying the scene's meaning. Dusk is approaching, just as Tasso describes. But the extensive stretch of sky still reflects the warmth of a near-extinguished sun.

Poussin uses this ambiguity in mood to elucidate the rest of the picture. The corpse of the vanquished giant Argantes sprawls in the middle distance, painted so thinly that he almost seems to be dissolving into the gore-drenched earth. The smell of death appears to pervade the entire scene, and Tancréd's kneeling squire Vafirino droops over his master's body with a sense of helpless bereavement. Although he props up Tancréd's chin with his fingers, Vafirino seems as overcome with grief as St John in the earlier *Deposition* image.

As if to confirm the resemblance between the two paintings, Poussin gives Erminia a swooping pose directly reminiscent of the *Deposition's* Virgin. The undertones of a religious lamentation deepen *Tancréd and Erminia*, and reinforce its feeling of loss. But the differences between the two anguished women are more telling than their similarities. While the Virgin simply

wrings her hands in the face of death's incontrovertible reality, Erminia cradles Tancréd's sword and hacks off her own hair.

The self-violation implicit in this act becomes still more alarming when we realise how difficult such a severing must be. Erminia, though, is energised by the attempt. Her whole daring body appears quickened, ready to use her slashed tresses in a last-ditch attempt to stem the gush of blood from Tancréd's body.

Poussin gives no sure indication of her likely success, and the painting's predominantly elegiac air is hardly countered by Erminia's impulsive movement. But her selflessness is heroic, and the white horse standing behind her gives further cause for optimism.

Unlike the other horse, a deep brown animal who turns away from the action to brood over the departing sun, this beautiful steed stares down at Erminia. Without resorting to soppy anthropomorphism, Poussin gives the white horse a radiance and even an aura of compassion as it gazes with quiet confidence at Erminia's intervention. Moreover, the flowers springing so plentifully from the foreground support the view that life may yet return to Tancréd's limbs.

Although Poussin arrived at an unforgettable fusion of melancholy,

tenderness and hope in this supremely poetic painting, he was dissatisfied. Around 1634, a few years after completing the Hermitage *Tancréd and Erminia*, he produced another version of precisely the same moment in Tasso's poem. Hanging side by side, surely for the first time in their long history, the two canvases prove how radically Poussin revised his interpretation of the theme.

He may have felt that the earlier picture was too mournful, for its extensive sky is no longer allowed to preside over the scene. A substantial boulder now rises up to block most of the clouds in the centre, and several trees punctuate what remains of the sky. The distance is largely withheld from view, resulting in a shallow, frieze-like picture-space where Tancréd, Erminia and Vafirino perform like classical figures carved in a stone relief.

But they are far from petrified. The emphasis, here, is on more vigorous, purposeful action than before. Urged on by two smiling putti carrying torches in the sky, one joyful and the other somewhat apprehensive, Vafirino refuses to kneel. He only bends his knees, speaking now as he tries to haul his master up from a recumbent position. In the Hermitage version, Tancréd's torso is clothed and armoured — apart from a chest partially bared to expose his wounds.

In the Barber version, by con-

trast, the whole upper half of his body is naked. The powerful musculature suggests that Tancréd has the stamina to survive, and the golden drapery swathing his loins and thighs certainly emits a healthy glow. With Vafirino's help, his left arm is now stretched out to receive Erminia's assistance, and may even be supported by her knee.

She, nevertheless, is the most transformed figure of all. The graceful, darting woman in the Hermitage canvas has become more complex. Her arms are bare now, and she hacks at her hair with greater ferocity. Less willowy and more Amazonian, she grabs the tendrils with a bunched fist held high in the air.

But alongside this new determination, Erminia displays an intensified sense of suffering. Crouching over Tancréd rather than remaining upright as before, she seems anxious to complete the severing before it is too late.

On the whole, however, the Barber picture is the more positive. One horse turns to watch the sky on the right, where dawn replaces the sunset gloom on the other side of the painting. Tancréd's plumed

helmet bristles resolutely in the foreground, and one of the putti clutches arrows ready for the moment when Erminia is finally united with her love. The religious undercurrent, which gives Tancréd a Christ-like capacity to rise from the dead, also means that the Saracen princess will be converted to the Christian faith.

In its verve and originality, combining the secular and the sacred with no hint of strain, the Barber version is a formidable achievement. No wonder it turned so many British collectors into Poussin devotees after Sir James Thornhill purchased the painting in 1717.

Ultimately, though, I prefer the less severe and more tremulous quality of the Hermitage canvas, where the stoic virtues of nobility, strength and self-sacrifice are matched by a lovely Venetian sensuousness — along with an awareness of human vulnerability pitched against the waning of the light.

© *Tancréd and Erminia* is at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery (021-235 4514), Mon-Sat 9.30am-5pm, Sun 2-5pm, until January 3.

TELEVISION REVIEW: both patients and doctors examined

From time to time, television shows things that make you curl up in sheer embarrassment. The Press needs no lessons in the invasion of privacy, but seldom does it intrude as grandiosely as last night's *Cutting Edge* on Channel 4.

Here were a group of patients suffering the indignities of mental breakdown while the cameras rolled. All we were told, had given permission to be filmed, though that hardly seemed true of Paul, a diabetic patient who flew into a perfectly justified rage. "Will you tell that guy to piss off, now!" he shouted. "I don't want to be filmed." Disgracefully, his request was ignored. Later, he attacked both soundman and cameraman, but seems to have only winged them.

The other patients included Violet, who wisely held her tongue as doctors, nurses and television crew coaxed her to speak; Jenny, who believed that the social workers were going to take away her children and cut them up; and a 95-year-old man, Mr Lucas, whose long and self-reliant life was finally coming to an end. He sat inconspicuously on a chair, his face eloquent with grief, while family, doctors and social workers discussed what was to become of him. It was horrible to watch.

The excuse for this voyeurism was the work of the crisis team from Barnet Central lead by consultant psychiatrist Lawrence Ratna. What he said was humane and reason-

Private pain put on public display

Cutting Edge/Doctors to Be Channel 4/BBC 2

able, but I'm certain I wouldn't put myself in his hands if I felt my reason slipping away. How caring can a man be if he does not care for his patients' dignity? Once it was necessary to visit Bedlam if you wanted to shiver deliciously at the incapacity of others; now we can do it at home. Such is progress.

Embarrassment, though less acute, was also uppermost in *Doctors to Be*, the first of a series of programmes on BBC 2 following the careers of young hopefuls who applied to become medical students at St Mary's, Paddington, in 1984. We watched them being interviewed by a panel for places at the school, smiling and sweating and hoping, desperately, to impress. Nobody, of course, said they wanted to become doctors because it is

secure, reasonably well paid, and enables you to sit on interview panels with huge power over the lives of others; all tried to demonstrate what well-rounded people they were. Most of us at some time have lied our way through awkward quarters of an hour in just this style.

As it happens, all the young people shown in the programme had obvious qualities, though some were ill-prepared. If you are going to claim an interest in poetry, it is best to know some, preferably just obscure enough to impress the dean of a medical school. One candidate, pressed to admit that an interest in biology really had no relevance to a career in medicine, loudly concurred. He should have told the interviewer not to be so silly, but it would have done him no good.

The series, which will follow the students through their training and into practice, looks promising. Eight years older and under the lash as junior hospital doctors, some of them are showing signs of regretting their decisions. Medicine still demands as a rite of passage that its apprentices be subjected to working conditions that would have brought a blush to the cheek of Dr Gradgrind. But then nobody on this show pretended the job was suitable for idealists; nobody except the 17-year-olds, that is.

NIGEL HAWKES

Looking for class acts

REMEMBER those school visits by local arts companies when the assembly hall was turned into a theatre, dancers pounded the wooden floor and writers read their work to a rapt teenage audience? Money to pay for such welcome intrusions into school life may be supplemented next year by the Sainsbury's Arts Education Awards, launched by Lord Sainsbury with the backing of arts figures including Richard Eyre, director of the National Theatre, Nick Serota, director of the Tate Gallery, Nicholas Payne, director of Opera North, and Christopher Gable, artistic director of Northern Ballet Theatre.

A total of £200,000 is available to arts organisations for work with young people and £50,000 will go to secondary schools for their own projects. Eyre said the emphasis should be on quality of experience for young people; encounters with second-rate performers are "next to useless". Drama, he added, is not a marginal part of education; it is as popular with school leavers as English, medicine or law. Serota said he recognised the value of an early introduction to the arts; he confessed to detaching himself from the school party on trips to London and sneaking off to galleries. Application forms can be obtained from Sainsbury's Awards Administration, 2 Portland Road, London W11 4LA.

TONIGHT the curtain goes up on one of the more unlikely theatrical

ARTS BRIEFING

productions of the year. Alan Rickman, of *Die Hard* and *Truth, Madly, Deeply* fame, will take his acclaimed interpretation of Hamlet to a converted truck warehouse in Barrow. The production, which recently enjoyed a sold-out season at London's Riverside Studios, runs until Saturday at Brady's Warehouse. It has been produced by Thelma Holt, that doughty champion of the underdog, as part of an effort to boost the economy of the Cumbrian port, which has been badly affected by the decline of the shipbuilding industry.

Last chance...
REGARDED as the "French Francis Bacon" by some (few of them in France), Jean Rousin has been working away for years in relative obscurity to conjure up a dark and slightly morbid world where the shadows seem to conceal monstrosities just beyond our vision. Recently he has been the subject of a major book, and London's Cooling Gallery (071-409 3500) offers the first real chance in Britain to assess a range of his work. Even those not wholly convinced of his stature may well be impressed by his draughtsmanship. Until Thursday.

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Everyone Needs Opera

MUSIC: Aldeburgh's tribute to Britten and Weill; plus jazz, blues and London classical concerts

Broadway melodies with bite

Britten and Weill combined popular appeal and serious purpose. Could it be done today, asks Richard Morrison

A grotesque era of greed and conspicuous consumption has come to an end. Recession has turned to slump. Even within "sophisticated" 20th-century Europe, civil war has erupted. The leaders of the democratic world find themselves helpless in the face of events; meanwhile, those with little money and less hope are turning to fascism.

As for artists, writers, composers: many feel a duty to warn against the coming dark age. But how? Most are content to bask in their own cleverness, constrained within artistic styles that are too cerebral to communicate to mass audiences.

So much for the Thirties. The American historian Francis Fukuyama has assured us that history will never repeat itself. Science and democracy, those celestial twins, are apparently leading us ever upwards. Those of a more pessimistic inclination disagree: we have seen the events of the early Nineties before, and would be fools not to learn from the escalating desperation of the Thirties.

When the Aldeburgh Foundation planned its four-day Britten/Weill Festival, the organisers could hardly have imagined that the public mood would be quite as dark as it is. But in fact last weekend's superbly researched and performed series of concerts at Snape Maltings (supported by Audi and the European Arts Festival) had the kind of devastating topicality that only chance can bring, because it focused on the period in the late 1930s when Benjamin Britten and Kurt Weill — two of the most fertile music-dramatic geniuses of the century — each grappled with the dilemma of what an artist may usefully do in a world teetering on the brink of an abyss.

Each composer had gone to America for good reasons. As a Jew, Weill could not write music-theatre any more in Berlin; Broadway was a natural second home. He had to adapt the acidic, hard-biting style with which, a decade earlier, he had served up Brecht's bitter anti-capitalist polemic in *The Threepenny Opera* and *Mahagonny*. But he did so without losing identity or integrity, nor by making a cynical disavowal of his past.

Neither did he forsake his social ideals. Indeed, *Knickknack Holiday*, the send-up of Roosevelt's New Deal which he and the playwright Maxwell Anderson fashioned out of



Britten and Weill: grappling in the 1930s with the dilemma of what an artist may usefully do in a world teetering on the brink of an abyss

Washington Irving's satire, is, if anything, more interesting than the Weill/Brecht collaborations because it makes its points more subtly and charmingly. Besides that bittersweet classic "September Song", it includes as fine an array of wryly-transformed genre pieces as Sondheim ever wrote. And it was a hit on the Broadway of Irving Berlin, Cole Porter and Jerome Kern! Consider how unlikely a modern parallel would be a "serious", leftish composer, respected within the new-music coterie, decides that instead of sneering at the Lloyd Webber hit-machine, he will take him on at his own game, reaching millions without compromising his message.

Impossible! Weill did it, not once, but several times. After *Knickknack Holiday* came the breathtakingly lyrical "psychological musical" *Lady in the Dark*, which is surely due for proper stage revival, after its successful Edinburgh Festival concert outing a few years back. Even the problematic *Lost in the Stars* — Weill's last work, an adaptation of Alan Paton's great South African novel, *Cry the Beloved Country* — succeeded in

bringing a serious subject to the attention of a big audience, and supplied some of the most powerful choruses ever heard on Broadway. Of course, there are people with serious aspirations who are writing musicals today: the problem is that they are about three divisions below Weill in the talent league.

What of Britten's involvement with America? He followed W.H. Auden there because, like Auden, he felt stifled by the petty world of the British Left. To Auden and Britten, America was not so much a place, more a state of mind.

"Every day America's destroyed and re-created; America is what you do. America is I and you. America is what you choose to make it."

Those were Auden's lines in *Paul Bunyan*, the 1941 musical which Britten and Auden intended for Broadway, though the nearest it got was the campus of Columbia University. Britten was far too bright to see how absurdly idealistic this vision of America was: how could the millions caught up in the Great Depression

think of America as "what you choose to make it?"

In fact, he had already decided that "this country has all the faults of Europe and none of its attractions". He was also too honest not to realise that his future did not lie in becoming the second Cole Porter, though with his astonishing cabaret song, "Oh Tell Me the Truth about Love", he did make a good attempt to write the second "Night and Day".

But the point is that the experience of writing music specifically geared to widespread appreciation had crystallised the young Britten's rather wistful-waspy socialism into a hard determination to be "useful, and to the living".

Much of the pleasure of last weekend lay in the performances: the BBC Singers under Simon Joynt putting across the *Knickknack Holiday* and *Paul Bunyan* choruses in admirable style; the Austrian composer/singer, H.K. Gruber adding his singular accent and touching delivery to some solo numbers; the soprano Angelina Réaux squeezing

every drop of feeling, wry or wistful from the cabaret songs; and a whole batch of young talent from the Britten-Pears School demonstrating, under Stuart Bedford's direction, where Weill came from, with well-prepared (if occasionally too genteel) concert versions of *The Threepenny Opera* and *Happy End*. If nothing else, the festival told us that there is a wealth of brilliant theatre music here, just waiting to be revived.

But it also told us something more important still. Many argue that the music Weill wrote in America is less "important" than his Berlin output. There can certainly be no argument that Britten's American output is insignificant compared with what came after. That whole Thirties gang were in many respects mixed-up and unsuccessful. But at least they tried to make their art useful to people who were facing uncertainty, ruin, oblivion. If Fukuyama is right, composers and poets of today can continue on their own sweet way, amusing their own little fan clubs. If he is wrong our generation needs its Brittens and Weills too. But following their example will take courage as well as talent.

Freedom to sing the blues

David Sinclair talks to an American singer and guitarist whose career received its first boost from a British record label

Rainer is an American blues singer and slide guitarist of east European descent (his name is pronounced Rynet). He lives with his wife and two children in Tucson, Arizona where he works as a guitar repairman at a musical instrument store. He is 41, drives a 1962 Ford Falcon Station Wagon and plays a 1933 National steel-bodied guitar. He has two ambitions. One is to play a show in Prague, the capital of his late father's homeland, which he has never visited. Another is to make enough money to be able to buy the house which he and his family have rented for the past 15 years. For that he needs a deposit of about \$50,000 to get a mortgage.

This week he comes a step closer to realising both his dreams. He has no recording contract in America, but his first solo album, *Worried Spirits*, has just been released by a small, British company called Demon Records. Recorded in two days in a shed under the blazing sun of the Arizona desert, and featuring nothing but Rainer's voice and guitar, it is an album of intimate, slow-burning intensity.

His touch is eerily authentic: a finger-picking country blues style that clanks and drifts out of time, intercut with a steel tube glissando that soars like hope on the wings of a dove. In this regard, the 15 songs are haunted by the dusty, howling spirit of Robert Johnson. But Rainer's voice is another matter. His clipped modulations and white man's timbre have been likened to those of David Byrne (formerly of Talking Heads).

The overall result is mesmerising, a new evocation of an eternal emotion. "Music to me is always a very direct form of expression. There should be nothing intellectual about it," Rainer says firmly.

It was in 1954 that the three-year-old Rainer, his Czechoslovakian-born father, his German-born mother and elder brother made their bid for freedom from the communist-run sector of East Berlin. There was no Berlin Wall, but illegal emigration was still fraught with danger.

Two years later the family emigrated to America, where they settled on the west side of Chicago. Growing up just outside the city's black neighbourhood, Rainer absorbed the sound and feel of the blues. Listening to a local radio station he heard a song called "Slow Down" by the late singer/guitarist J.B. Lenoir. He dashed out to buy a copy of

Lenoir's album, which he eventually wore out. Rainer later discovered that Lenoir had run a bar just two blocks away from his home, although he was too young to have gone into it when it was still there.

Steeped in the magic of Muddy Waters, Son House, Lemon Jefferson and other bluesmen, Rainer has a wide-ranging interest in all sorts of music, and includes Theplacements, XTC and the Gipsy Kings among his current favourites.

He drifted down to Tucson in 1972, where he fell in with a tightly-knit community of like-minded musicians and became a founder member of the bands Naked Prey, Giant Sand and The Band of Blacky Ranchette. Rainer found it "a great place to get started. I'm a big fish in a little pool. If I'd stayed in Chicago I wouldn't have had anything like the same success."

In 1984 he formed a trio billing himself as Rainer and Das Combo. The band was lauded by *Rolling Stone* magazine and championed by Billy Gibbons of ZZ Top, but it



Rainer: slow-burning intensity

was a British record label, the ill-fated Making Waves, which provided a contract. In 1986 Das Combo released the album *Barfoot Rock With*, a glorious, wiry collection which was abruptly deleted when the company went bankrupt.

Since then Das Combo has drifted apart, but Rainer is now returning to the fray. The gathering popular acclaim for blues-based acts such as Chris Whitley and John Campbell, and the revived fortunes of veteran blueswaller John Hammond Jr, suggest that the climate is as favourable as it has ever been for an act with Rainer's stark appeal.

● *Worried Spirits* by Rainer (Demon FRENCH 723) is released this week. Rainer is performing at the Town & Country (with Rory Gallagher), London NW5 (071-284 0303) on Thursday and the 100 Club, London W1 (071-636 0933) on Sunday.

Four-part harmony gets tighter

With ticket sales in a trough and despondent music promoters doing their own version of the *dance macabre*, these are not the best of times for performers to go on tour. But as far as Manhattan Transfer are concerned, the financial constraints have produced a welcome side-effect.

On the road with the minimum of trimmings — just acoustic bass, piano and lightweight percussion — Tim Hauser and his colleagues Janis Siegel, Alan Paul and Cheryl Bentley sound sharper than ever. For once you can hear every nuance of the lush four-part harmonies. There are no synthesizers, nor any of the electro-pop accessories which cluttered up the last album, *The Offbeat of Avenues*.

The group, who appear at

There's more to Manhattan Transfer than British audiences realise, says Clive Davis

the Festival Hall on Friday, are advertising their current dates as "The Acoustic Tour". As Hauser admits, "acoustic" is a euphemism for "recession". "When attendance dropped in the summer of last year, the quartet decided to try to slash their overheads, with the result that their voices returned to their rightful position at the forefront."

A one-week residency at the Blue Note club in New York in April won exceptionally warm reviews. A spacious concert hall, on the other hand, is not the best place to appreciate the subtleties of this low-key format. At Rotterdam's De Doelen complex earlier this month the acoustics were decent enough, but some of the

"vocales" stunts — virtual note-for-note reproductions of instrumental solos — were bound to lose a fraction of their impact. That problem was outweighed by the power of the ensemble work and its ever-shifting tonal shades.

The tour marks Manhattan Transfer's twentieth anniversary. In that time they have woven together an unlikely patchwork of styles, adding a sprinkling of jazz virtuosity to everything they touch. The ingredients came together to perfection on the Grammy-winning album *Vocales*, a collaboration with musicians of the calibre of Dizzy Gillespie and the Basie Orchestra.

After a long association with Atlantic, the group moved to Columbia last year. *Offbeat of Avenues* was the first fruit of the new relationship, and a Christmas album is due to follow, with orchestrations by

Johnny Mandel, the arranger on Shirley Horn's hit album *Here's To Life*.

Horn's set was a spectacular chart success in America this year; in Britain it sank without trace. Manhattan Transfer complain that they have faced similar difficulties with British listeners, who tend to categorise them as a light entertainment nostalgia act cranking out endless versions of "Tuxedo Junction". While their audiences in Europe and Japan have grown steadily, their British following has ebbed away over the last decade.

One way of restoring it, they think, might be to play a residency at a West End theatre. If that happens, the public will have to learn to accept that Hauser and friends have moved on since the days of "Chanson d'Amour".

Do they ever perform that particular golden oldie? Yes, says Hauser — if they have a gun to their head, and they know it's loaded.



Manhattan Transfer: at the Festival Hall on Friday

LONDON CONCERTS

Drama of druids and drainpipes

Courageous and wise as Caracatus, led the team of soloists. Arthur Davies seemed to be straining in the tenor role of Orbin, while Judith Howarth, as Elgen, was also disappointing, a touch over-awed by the power required for this role you really need an Isolde, and she is not yet that. Alastair Miles, arriving late in the work, was an effectively ripe Clandius.

Like everyone else, I was wondering how to pronounce the title of Benedict Mason's new work for the first of the London Sinfonietta's four concerts celebrating its twenty-fifth birthday last week. Apparently, it refers to the phonetic representation of the

sound made when imitating the clip-clop of a horse's hooves, something which the experts call an alveopalatal click.

Mason's note drew parallels with the playing and singing of the peoples that use such sounds in their everyday language. Certainly, this vibrant, dense and neurotically energetic work contains its fair share of African and South American influences, rhythmically as well as sonically. There are overtones of swagging, jazzish rhythms in its virtuosic, multi-layered textures, for instance, and the repertoire of exotic instruments it requires is bewildering.

A solo for a Schwirrbogen —

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A solo for a Schwirrbogen —

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COMPANY PARTNER

To £125,000
Holborn firm with blue-chip specialist client base seeks to expand into infrastructure company work. Small existing company department requires additional partner with minimum £100,000 client following. Very low overheads ensure good levels of partner earnings. Excellent track record in integrating senior lawyers.

CONSTRUCTION

To £82,000
City firm with established construction reputation seeks solicitor, ideally with at least three years' experience, both contract drafting and litigation skills. Thriving & growing firm with excellent career prospects to the ideal candidate. Continued to be extremely busy throughout the recession.

COMPANY

To £98,000
London office of Provincial firm seeks generalist, highly motivated solicitor, ideally 6-12 months qualified, to join small (night fee earner) team handling T&O, corporate rescue and infrastructure company work. Busy and profitable department.

INSOLVENCY LITIGATION

To £44,000
Small litigation group in top City firm seeks solicitor who combines general commercial and insolvency experience. Present matters include some of the largest bankruptcies in the UK. Also opportunity to handle smaller matters with sole responsibility and relevant supervision. Excellent back-up and information services. Very low staff turnover.

The above represents a small cross-section of the active vacancies currently registered with us. For further information please contact Jonathan Macrae at Zarak Macrae Brenner (both solicitors) on 071-377 0510 (071-226 1558 evenings/weekends) or write to us at Zarak Macrae Brenner, Recruitment Consultants, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PY. Confidential fax 071-247 5174.

LONDON

PRIVATE CLIENT PARTNER

c. £100,000
Thriving established City firm which has deliberately maintained and expanded its private client practice seeks additional partner committed to private client work in the City. Good personal contacts essential, following desirable. Previous wealth portfolio of high net worth individuals and family clients.

PERSONS

c. £46,000
One of the largest City firms with a steady throughput of high profile City transactions and general advisory work seeks two solicitors, ideally 1-4 years' qualified. "Gap" in experience means there are real partnership prospects for the right candidate. Excellent in-house training programme.

HOUSE BANK

c. £33,000++
Blue-chip City house bank seeks lawyer with 2-4 years' banking experience to join small team specialising in debt recovery. Role involves reviewing a broad range of loan agreements and providing recommendations and involvement in commercial transactions.

IF NON-CONVENTIONAL
Established City firm with strong IP base seeks solicitor, ideally 1-3 years' qualified, with mark and general experience in IP law. Excellent background in advantage. High level of client contact and responsibility.

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Commercial Solicitor

£30-35,000

Westminster

London Transport is looking to recruit a solicitor with relevant experience to work in the commercial section of its Legal Department. The work of the section involves drafting and advising on contracts for the sale and purchase of goods and services, computer and construction contracts, some commercial litigation and arbitration and increasingly, advising London Transport and its subsidiaries on the implications of EEC law.

Starting salary will be up to £35,000, with realistic prospects of advancing to a higher level of pay (performance related and subject to regular review). Benefits include a contributory pension scheme and generous travel concessions.

To apply, please write to Angela Johnson enclosing full career details, at Central Personnel, London Transport, 9th Floor, 45 Broadway, London SW1H 0BD, quoting reference CDV 9288/E. Closing date 13 November.

London Transport's policy is to work towards equality within its workforce and therefore applications from all groups are welcomed.

Disabled applicants should please give details of any special needs in the job or working environment.

London Transport

Litigation Lawyer

up to £30,000

Westminster

London Transport's Legal Department requires a senior assistant to deal with personal injury litigation brought against London Transport. Experience of other litigation such as property or contract will be an advantage.

The successful candidate will be an experienced practitioner, probably a Solicitor or Fellow of the Institute of Legal Executives with at least five years' litigation experience.

Salary will be up to £30,000 with realistic prospects of rising to a higher level of pay (performance related and subject to regular review). Benefits include generous travel concessions.

To apply, please write to Angela Johnson, enclosing full career details, at Central Personnel, London Transport, 9th Floor, 45 Broadway, London SW1H 0BD, quoting reference CDV 9288/E. Closing date 13 November.

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Disabled applicants should please give details of any special needs in the job or working environment.

London Transport

UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE
LONDON

CHAIR OF EUROPEAN LAW

The College invites applications for this Chair tenable in the Department of Law from 1 October 1993.

The holder of the Chair should be willing to teach undergraduate and postgraduate students and to supervise and conduct research in the laws and institutions of the European Communities, as well as other aspects of the European Union and the Council of Europe, and this could encompass the comparative study of national legal systems in Europe.

Salary will be negotiable in the professional range (minimum £28,742) plus £2,134 London allowance (salary review pending).

Further particulars may be obtained from Professor S.J. Hogg, Head of Department of Law, University College London, Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT, telephone 071 388 7882.

Applications (16 copies), including a curriculum vitae and the names and addresses of three referees, should be sent to the Provost, University College London, Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT, to arrive by 28 November 1992.

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EXPERIENCED LAWYER

whose primary function will be to assist the Regional Counsel in providing comprehensive advice to General Management with regard to all operations in that area, as well as advice to the markets themselves.

This challenging job which is based in Vevey, Switzerland, requires the following profile:

- Law degree, plus some postgraduate specialisation in international or commercial law, finance, political sciences etc.
- 3 to 5 years' experience, preferably with exposure to different legislations.
- English mother tongue with some knowledge of French.
- Some overseas experience, preferably in Asia.

The working environment is young and dynamic, with responsibility being dispersed on a great variety of issues.

Please send applications to Mr. V. Mordasini, Department of Human Resources, NESTLÉ, 1800 Vevey / Switzerland.

INSOLVENCY PARTNER - £110,000

A medium sized City firm with national and international offices requires a further partner for its insolvency department. The department has many referrals from its banking and corporate departments; both of which are highly regarded. The successful candidate will have a following and preferably be a licensed insolvency practitioner.

SHIPPING LITIGATION - PARTNER LEVEL - £100,000

A medium sized City firm with an excellent litigation and asset finance department is seeking to develop its small shipping department. The group mainly handles dry work therefore a partner with "wet" experience would be preferred. A senior solicitor with mix of wet and dry work would also be considered.

BANKING - 2 TO 5 YRS QUAL - TO £80,000

Large City firm with a recent banking department requires two assistant solicitors with experience to handle international trade and project finance, aircraft and ship finance, and international capital markets. Excellent working environment and long term rewards.

COMPANY/COMMERCIAL - 2 TO 3 YRS QUAL - £40,000

"Top 15" City firm requires an assistant solicitor to join a company department of 12 partners to handle a broad workload encompassing flotations, takeovers, mergers, reconstructions and general commercial law. The department has a corporate finance bias. Previous City firm experience is required for this busy department.

COMPANY/COMMERCIAL - PARTNER - £100,000

Small City type firm closely associated with a large international firm requires a partner with a following to assist in the development of the "domestic" company/commercial work. Substantial percentage of current workload is from UK subsidiaries of overseas companies and from head offices of international UK companies and private UK company work. Salaried partnership is available.

LANDLORD & TENANT LITIGATION - PARTNER - £90,000++

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CONSTRUCTION - 2 TO 4 YRS QUAL - £82,000

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A niche City practice with a growing reputation for its insurance work is seeking an additional solicitor with a good commercial litigation background to handle a mix of accountants', solicitors', architects', surveyors' and bankers' negligence.

Garfield Robbins

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LITIGATION

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At our West London office we are also looking to recruit an experienced Family Lawyer. For both positions please apply, with C.V., to

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LAW

A matter of life and birth

Was it right
to perform
a caesarean
without consent?
Sally Hughes
reopens the case

Should the courts be able to sanction obstetric interventions against the will of the woman involved? The High Court declaration on October 12, obliging a woman to submit to a caesarean section has shown for the first time in the UK that a woman in childbirth can lie helplessly in a hospital bed while lawyers representing her hospital ask a court for a declaration overriding her express refusal to have an operation.

Judges like "authoritative" cases, by which they can claim precedence for their decisions. Most are loath to decide something completely new. Thus, an American case was gratefully seized on. Sir Stephen Brown, the judge in *Re S*, the British case, said the American authority, *Re AC*, suggested that "if this case were being heard in the American courts the answer would be likely to be in favour of granting a declaration in these circumstances".

But would it? The case of "AC" achieved notoriety in the United States. However, years after both mother and baby had died following a court-ordered caesarean, the District of Columbia appeals court overturned the original decision. It issued a wide-ranging judgment, under which it is highly unlikely that the court would have granted a declaration in the circumstances of the London case.

"AC" was Angela Carder, aged 27, who on June 9, 1987, when 25 weeks pregnant, was found to have an inoperable lung tumour. She was taken to hospital on June 11 and diagnosed four days later as terminally ill and perhaps able to survive for two weeks. But by June 16, she was near death and on a ventilator.

That morning a judge held court at the George Washington University Hospital, where the hospital authorities asked for a declaration that she be given a caesarean despite the absence of her consent. Evidence was heard that a 26-week foetus had an 80 per cent chance of survival and that Ms Carder would probably die within 24 hours. Her own doctors and her family were opposed to the operation.

She was not completely incapacitated, and doctors relayed the court's decisions to her. She responded by mouthing: "I don't want it done. I don't want it done." However, the court found that in the circumstances her intent was not clear. The operation went ahead and both she and the baby died, sooner than had nature taken its course.

In April 1990 the District of Columbia appeals court reviewed the events and the later written judgment given by the lower court. The appeals court found that the decision was



Your life in a judge's hands: the decision that a woman should have a caesarean followed an uncertain precedent

one that should be taken by the patient, unless she was mentally incapable or otherwise unable to give consent. The court said: "We hold that in virtually all cases the question of what is to be done is to be decided by the patient on behalf of herself and the foetus." The trial court had not determined whether she was able or competent to give consent before it entered on the "balancing" exercise concerning the preservation of life. The judge, sitting at the hospital, should have gone to Ms Carder's bedside and "done more to discover her wishes," the appeals court said.

In the London case, *Re S*, the woman had expressly refused consent. No declaration would have been given if *Re AC* had actually been followed. Nevertheless, if *Re S* were heard in a great many American courts, as this is state and not federal law, a court-ordered caesarean is a distinct possibility. It was partly because of the lack of reasoned guidance in the growing number of cases that seemed to be going through the nod that the appeals court held the review.

In the US a high proportion of births are caesarean deliveries — a product of defensive medicine, high technology and interventionist philosophy. Some hospitals have a policy of insisting on surgery in certain circumstances — multiple births, for instance. A Nigerian woman expect-

ing triplets, who was taken to hospital in Chicago during the final stages of her pregnancy, repeatedly said she was unwilling to have a caesarean.

The hospital obtained a court order once she had gone into labour. When both parents were informed of the decision they objected strenuously. The woman was put in leather restraints and her husband ejected from the hospital.

These are not odd, off-the-wall cases. In a country that will not force a potential bone marrow donor to allow the extraction of marrow to save the life of a living, sentient, intelligent person, the courts seem ready to imprison or operate on pregnant women in the interests of a foetus. In practical terms, the American experience is not an encouraging precedent.

Is it any use saying that the law in the US is different, that there has been no real establishment in the UK of the right of personhood for foetuses, that the decision in *Re S* seems, but is not stated, to apply only to pregnancies at full term, that in the UK, unlike in the US, abortion and other reproductive rights are not threatened by this decision or similar ones? Not really. Procedural deficiencies, possibly the most unjust part of the process, seem to be the same in the UK. This haste and lack of regard for the normal procedural standards

were cited by the American appeals court as a cogent argument against such overriding of a woman's objections.

In the "emergency" of labour, doctors' claims are apt to go unchallenged. The woman concerned is also virtually excluded from the court, and this is a natural consequence, according to a leading barrister, of the lack of time for her to instruct or even obtain legal representatives. So, even though the hospital and the Official Solicitor were able to get legal representation, the woman herself could not.

There is a lopsidedness in the distribution of power allowed when the legal system should normally endeavour to redress imbalance between the parties. There are many other instances in which courts have to make quick decisions, but protections have been built in to prevent abuses.

The Americans have come to appreciate that rushed and coercive use of legal procedure have wide implications. A study of court-ordered obstetric interventions in the late 1980s found that most of the women were from ethnic minorities, almost half were unmarried and a quarter did not speak English as their first language. One in five orders was obtained within an hour, sometimes by telephone.

In its long judgment, the appeals court repeated the "cogently stated" argument of the American Public Health Association that, instead of

issues of misuse of computer data. The main address came from a department official, whose hard task was to explain the department's role in handling all this threatening behaviour. "It had been suggested," says Tony Reiss, CMT's marketing manager, "that Mr Heseltine himself might make the speech, but somehow it didn't come off."

Double talk

The Law Society was chuffed to announce last week progress over the vexed issue of advocacy rights for solicitors in the higher courts. Negotiations with the committee under Lord Griffiths, set up to sort out who takes which cases in what courts, have made some headway. It now looks as if solicitors employed in government, industry and commerce, will be able to exercise wider rights of audience alongside their private practice colleagues.

But the biggest stumbling block — whether crown prosecutor solicitors can also be let in — still remains. Mark Sheldon, Law Society president, issued a brave-sounding statement saying that if the CPS-solicitors were kept out, the "whole rights of audience process" would be brought to a "juddering halt". Later, though, he confessed that the society would probably move forward without the crown prosecutors if it came to the crunch.



SCRIVENOR

An independent voice for righting wrongs

THE Royal Commission on Criminal Justice has already received much evidence that the responsibility for examining alleged miscarriages of justice should be removed from the review body. The case will be strengthened by the Law Society which today gives oral evidence. The review body would comprise both lawyers and lay persons, and should, as recommended by the Law Society, employ rapporteurs to oversee the reinvestigation of appropriate cases. Its role would then be to consider whether there were new factors and report its findings to the Court of Appeal.

This arrangement, however, would involve the review body only in cases that had failed to be resolved by all other stages in the process. The commission will be just as keen to ensure that, through its recommendations, the number of such cases is reduced.

What about procedures before trial? The commission has received much research evidence questioning the quality of advice given on behalf of many legal firms, much of it by unqualified staff, inadequately trained and supervised. Meanwhile, the public spending crisis is forcing the government to introduce payment methods for criminal defence work that may drive away experienced practitioners and may deprive some rural areas of defence services.

These developments have a potential to cause routine miscarriages of justice that could fundamentally undermine the commission's work. An independent, permanent criminal justice review body with a much broader remit than tackling alleged miscarriages of justice is needed. Such a body must be one of the commission's main recommendations if some existing defects are to be rectified.

The best route to the acquittal of the innocent and the conviction of the guilty is by an adversarial system in which both prosecution and defence work effectively and with the necessary resources. Each would be funded principally by public funds and such funds would have to be properly distributed to achieve the essential "equality of arms".

Many miscarriages have resulted from difficulties with experts, particularly in respect of forensic science evidence. Material has not been fully disclosed and the defence has had insufficient knowledge or facilities to test the strength of the evidence. The commission will try to ensure that standards are clearly defined and a range of suitable

expertise made available to the defence. A criminal justice review body could prescribe and enforce appropriate standards and maintain a central register. It would be able to review the skills available and report to Parliament. It is to be hoped that in future expert witnesses will contract directly with the Legal Aid Board as to the appropriate level of fees and to ensure prompt payment. The body would need a research facility to ensure that the government could not so reduce those rates as to undermine the availability of services.

A criminal justice review body must work with the Law Society and the Legal Aid Board to set standards for delivering criminal defence services. These would need to ensure the involvement of specialist solicitors, appropriate training and supervision of unqualified staff. They would need to ensure rigorous preparation and set time standards for all stages, from attendance at the police station to delivering papers to the trial advocate. The Legal Aid Board's franchising scheme represents a move in this direction. However, the board cannot be sufficiently independent of government to be given total responsibility.

The review body would go further than setting standards. With the clear objective of avoiding future miscarriages of justice it must have responsibility to advise on the provision of advice and representation generally. This would not inevitably, or throughout the country, be tied to solicitors in private practice. Each alternative would need to be tested and assessed. Professional independence, an acceptable standard of service and accessibility would be essential.

To undertake each of these roles the body would need a research facility so that its information and advice could be based on proper factual analysis. In this way the temporary advantage of research evidence for the commission could be developed. The quality of defence criminal work would thus be the subject of professional research and independently tested. The government would not be bound to accept recommendations but, if it failed to do so, it would have to explain how it intended to maintain the essential balance. A permanent body with this wider remit is essential to prevent continual miscarriages of justice.

● The author, a solicitor, is secretary of the London Criminal Courts Solicitors' Association.



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Blowing the whistle

ONE of the most irreverent, funny and perceptive books about the legal profession has just been published.

The Official Lawyer's Handbook by Daniel R. White and Philip R. Jenks (Harriman House, £7.99), tells embryo lawyers how big City firms can "stimulate a serious lust for lucre in the corruptible heart of the typical law student" and reports on "legal ethics (and other great oxymorons)". In its own words, the book "offers sufficient training in the art of hair-splitting and issue-obfuscation to enable you to allocate complete strangers in the space of just minutes — a skill that some lawyers don't acquire for weeks".

The book is right up to date, pointing out that the recession has hit the legal profession and "the demand for new article clerks, who know fresh air about anything useful, has plummeted".

On vacation clerks or summer placements, it observes that "summer placements are not unlike teenage black-tie balls, where you dress like an adult, drink like an adult, and try to get your end away like an adult — only to realise later that it is about as close to real life as Eddie the Eagle is to an Olympic gold medal". Many big City firms are

bound to rush out for a copy. But how many will leave the book on the client waiting-room table open at the two pages devoted to "what the time sheet says" and "what the time sheet should say", or the page evaluating the aptitude of those considering entering the profession? Those with the highest points are "compulsive, calculating, avaricious, sexually repressed, and no doubt already too blind to go out without a dog".

China coup

LOVELL White Durrant, the City law firm that set up in China in 1986, has become one of only five overseas firms, and the only one from the UK, to win a licence to practise in Peking under new rules brought in by the Chinese government.

Long distance
GORDON Dadds, the West End firm best known for its divorce work, disputes Clyde & Co's claim to be the first firm to use live video links in the High Court for the taking of evidence. Hugh Elder, one of the firm's partners, writes with details of a case in which he took part in the summer, during which two Los Angeles attorneys gave evidence via satellite from California.

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Narrow interpretation of articles

Charman and Another v WOC Offshore BV
Before Mr Justice Hirst
[Judgment July 31]

Articles 12(5) and 12A(4) of section 3 of the Brussels Convention on Jurisdiction and Enforcement of Judgments in Civil and Commercial Matters, incorporated into English law by the Civil Jurisdiction and Judgments Act 1982, were to be interpreted narrowly and literally so that an insurance policy which covered both marine and non-marine risks could not be subject to an agreement on jurisdiction under article 12(5).

Mr Justice Hirst so held in the Commercial Court of the Queen's Bench Division in determining a preliminary issue in favour of the defendants, WOC Offshore BV, and making an order under Order 12, rule 8 of the Rules of the Supreme Court that a writ issued by the plaintiff, John Robert Charman and Mark E. Brockbank, suing on their own behalf and on behalf of other members of Lloyd's syndicates seeking orders that the plaintiffs were entitled to avoid contracts of contingency insurance, should be set aside and that all further proceedings be stayed as the plaintiffs were debarred from bringing proceedings in England.

Article 12 of section 3 of the Convention provides: "The provisions of this section may be departed from only by an agreement on jurisdiction: . . . (5) which relates to a contract of insurance in so far as it covers one or more of the risks set out in article 12A."

Article 12A provides: "The following are risks referred to in article 12(5): (1) Any loss of or damage to (a) sea-going ships, installations situated offshore or on the high seas . . . arising from perils which relate to their use for commercial purposes . . . (4) Any risk or interest connected with any of those referred to in (1) to (3) above."

Mr Richard Jacobs for the plaintiffs, Mr Michael Swainston for the defendants.

MR JUSTICE HIRST said that there were two issues on the construction of the Convention:

1 Whether, as the defendants submitted, article 12(5) and in particular the crucial words "in so far as" were to be interpreted literally as synonymous with "to the extent that" or, as the plaintiffs submitted, as equivalent to "if or provided".

2 Whether article 12A(4) and in particular the words "connected with" were, as the defendants submitted, to be interpreted as synonymous with "ancillary to" or, as the plaintiffs submitted, as having a wide interpretation so that any risk or interest which was in any way associated with a marine risk would fall within its scope.

Mr Jacobs submitted that it would be wrong to give article 12(5) a narrow and literal interpretation. The crucial consideration, he argued, was the purpose of that part of the Convention to exclude from article 11 large risks which did not require social protection.

With that policy in mind, the court should first examine the policy to see whether it covered any one or more of the marine risks specified in article 12A(1) to (3), and if it did, should then treat the whole policy, including all other risks covered, as within the scope of article 12(5).

Any other construction would result in proceedings on the same policy, being divided between two different jurisdictions. Mr Swainston submitted that the words "in so far as" were clear and precise, and that Mr Jacobs' construction involved rewriting article 12(5) and substituting different words.

It followed that a jurisdiction agreement under article 12(5) had to be limited to marine risks of the type described in article 12A, and that any agreement, such as in the instant case, which embraced both marine and non-marine risks was impermissible and contrary to article 12(5).

Moreover, that interpretation was consistent with the purpose of section 3 as a whole, which was to ensure, subject to the limited exceptions in articles 12 and 12A, that the assured should only be sued in his courts of domicile.

His Lordship was unable to accept Mr Jacobs' construction which seemed to him to do violence to the clear words of article 12(5).

Even if the factor stressed by Mr Jacobs loomed as large as he submitted it would still not justify so radical a twist to the clear words of article 12(5). In addition, if Mr Jacobs were right in his construction of article 12(5), article 12A(4) would have been otiose.

His Lordship therefore accepted Mr Swainston's construction for the reasons he gave.

The issue was whether the plaintiff could reasonably obtain better paid employment than his present driving job.

That would no doubt turn, first, on his present and future medical and perhaps psychological state, including his ability to undertake certain forms of employment.

That was a matter for expert medical evidence.

It would turn, second, on the present and, so far as it could be predicted, future state of the job market in the area in which the plaintiff lived or might reasonably be expected to live. Those were questions of fact.

It might be convenient for those facts to be established by the employment consultant, if the knew about the job market in the area, but he did not need an interview with the plaintiff for that purpose.

The issue might be affected by the plaintiff's general suitability for employment and his willingness and motivation to seek and, if he was offered it, undertake better paid employment.

Those were in his Lordship's judgment, questions of fact to be determined by the judge.

The judge would not be helped by expert opinion because it depended on an assessment of the credibility and perhaps truthfulness of the plaintiff as a witness upon matters of ordinary experience.

Evidence from an employment consultant that he had interviewed the plaintiff and found, for instance, that he lacked motivation was inadmissible.

An interview would tend to make the trial longer and more expensive by burdening the court with inadmissible material under the guise of expert opinion.

Solicitors: Brian Thompson & Partners; Penningtons.

Motivation is fact for judge not witness

Larby v Thurgood

Before Mr Justice May

[Judgment August 11]

In an action for damages for personal injury, conclusions as to a plaintiff's motivation and willingness to seek better paid employment were questions of fact to be decided by the judge rather than matters for expert evidence from an employment consultant.

Mr Justice May so held in the Queen's Bench Division, refusing an application by the defendant, Albert Thurgood, that the action for personal injury of the plaintiff, Peter Larby, be stayed unless he agreed to submit to an interview with the defendant's employment consultant.

Mr Robert Glancy for the plaintiff, Mr Steven Kovacs for the defendant.

MR JUSTICE MAY said that the defendant admitted liability for the plaintiff's injury. His case was that the plaintiff could obtain better paid employment.

The defendant wished the employment consultant to assess the plaintiff as a person, to be able to gauge such matters as his motivation, demeanour, appearance and experience so far as they were relevant to the job market.

The defendant argued that there was no relevant distinction between an employment consultant and a medical consultant and that it was in the interests of justice that there should be an interview.

The plaintiff argued that a personal interview was not necessary in the interests of justice and that such a practice was pernicious and needed to be stopped because it resulted from a confusion of the roles of an expert witness and the judge and there was a danger of the plaintiff being cross-examined without the safeguards of that happening in court.

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An interview would tend to make the trial longer and more expensive by burdening the court with inadmissible material under the guise of expert opinion.

Solicitors: Brian Thompson & Partners; Penningtons.

Duty to provide school places

Regina v Birmingham City Council, Ex parte Equal Opportunities Commission (No 2)

Before Lord Justice Neill, Lord Justice Woolf and Lord Justice Butler-Sloss
[Judgment October 14]

Where there were selective grammar schools and selective places within a local education authority's area, the LEA had to ensure that an equal number of grammar school places were available for boys and girls, in order to discharge its duty under section 8 of the Education Act 1944 without contravening the provisions of section 23 of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975.

In assessing the pool of available places the LEA was required to take account of all the schools in the area and not merely the schools which were maintained by the LEA.

The Court of Appeal so stated dismissing an appeal by Birmingham City Council from the Queen's Bench Divisional Court (The Times February 28).

Section 8 of the 1944 Act provides: "(1) It shall be the duty of every local education authority to secure that there shall be available for their area sufficient schools . . . (b) for providing secondary education, that is to say full time education suitable for the requirements of senior pupils . . ."

Section 23 of the 1975 Act provides: "(1) It is unlawful for a local education authority, in carrying out such of its functions under the Education Act 1944 to 1981 as do not fall within section 22, to do any act which constitutes sex discrimination."

Mr Michael Bell, QC and Mr Richard McManus for the council; Mr Anthony Lester, QC and Mr David Pannick, QC, for the Equal Opportunities Commission.

LORD JUSTICE NEILL, giving the judgment of the court, said that the present proceedings were a sequel to earlier proceedings between the same parties in which the EOC on October 14, 1987 obtained an order from Mr Justice McCullough that the arrangements made by the council for selective secondary education in its area were unlawful under section 23 of the 1975 Act when read in conjunction with section 8 of the 1944 Act.

That order was upheld by the Court of Appeal and the House of Lords: see *R v Birmingham City Council, Ex parte Equal Opportunities Commission* [1989] AC 1155.

At the time of the 1987 proceedings there were eight selective secondary schools maintained by

the council in Birmingham. Each was a single sex school. Seven were voluntary schools, the remaining one a county school.

Local education authorities had only restricted rights of control over the education policies pursued by voluntary schools where the governing body had a large measure of autonomy. The places available at the several schools at the time of the 1987 proceedings were set out by Lord Goff in his speech ([1989] AC 1155, 1190) which showed that at the age of 11 there were only 210 places available for girls whereas there were 390 places available for boys.

That disparity had a marked effect on the ability of girls to secure a grammar school education. Thus a consistent pattern emerged which showed that in the Birmingham area girls required to obtain a higher test mark to obtain entry to a girls' selective school than did boys to obtain entry to comparable schools.

The disparity of places and its effects on girls who wished that they could be educated at a selective single-sex school attracted the attention of the EOC. Following the decision of the House of Lords in the 1987 proceedings, the council gave consideration to how the decision could be implemented.

On November 1989 the EOC wrote to the council criticising it for its failure to comply with the law and with the judgment of the House of Lords. The chief education officer of the council replied explaining some of the problems with which the council was faced and stating that there were three possible ways forward:

(a) The council could cease to maintain all selective schools which admitted pupils at 11 plus; (b) the council could establish a new selective school for girls only; and (c) the council could cease to maintain one or more of the boys

only selective schools admitting 11 plus.

At that stage the council preferred (c) and Handsworth Grammar School was selected as the school to be closed. In due course the majority of parents of the boys at Handsworth Grammar School voted to support proposals that the school should seek grant-maintained status. Six months later the Secretary of State for Education and Science formally approved the acquisition of grant-maintained status by Handsworth Grammar School.

On June 4, 1991 the EOC commenced the present proceedings.

The council accepted that it was under an obligation to comply with the 1975 Act and to do so in accordance with the decision of the House of Lords in the 1987 proceedings.

The council submitted that the prohibition in section 23 of the 1975 Act was directed to the manner in which the council carried out its functions under the Education Acts. Once a school had achieved grant-maintained status (a) it passed out of the control of the LEA (b) it was no longer maintained by the LEA and (c) the LEA carried out no functions in relation to it.

Mr Lester drew attention to the words of section 8 and submitted that the section did not impose a duty to provide secondary schools. The duty was to secure that sufficient schools should be available in the area for providing secondary education.

It followed therefore in discharging that "securing function" the council had to have regard to the availability of educational opportunities provided by all the schools within its area, including relevant places in grant-maintained schools and even relevant places in independent schools.

The council could not ignore the

existence and discriminatory effects of some 120 grammar school places being available at Handsworth Grammar School by boys merely because the school had changed its status and become a grant-maintained school. Handsworth Grammar School remained a part of the pool for public sector grammar school education within the council's area.

Their Lordships recognised the problems which the 1975 Act posed for the council. However, the court was concerned with the proper interpretation of section 8 of the 1944 Act.

Mr Bellot left obliged to concede that in considering its obligations under the 1975 Act the council was entitled to take advantage of any places provided in grant-maintained schools.

The court considered that that concession was rightly made. It served to emphasise, however, the force of Mr Lester's submission that in considering the extent of the duty under section 8 of the 1944 Act one looked at all the schools in the area and not merely at the schools which were maintained by the LEA.

It seemed to their Lordships that in considering whether sufficient schools were available, the LEA had to take account only of places which were available free.

The relevant pool was the pool of free places in single-sex schools providing a grammar school education. That pool might include assisted places at independent schools, but in the court's judgment, it certainly included grant-maintained schools.

The duty of securing that sufficient schools were available for providing secondary education of a suitable kind was a different duty from a duty to provide such schools.

Solicitors: Sharpe Pritchard for Mr Stewart Dobson, Birmingham; Mr J. A. Lakin, Manchester.

Special procedure material

Regina v Preston Crown Court, Ex parte McGrath
Before Lord Justice Mann and Mr Justice Leonard
[Judgment October 13]

Where an order applied to a district judge under section 9(1) of Schedule 1 to the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984, to obtain access to special procedure material as defined in the section, and the material the subject of the application was mixed in that it consisted of special procedure material and other material, all of the material could be the subject of a special procedure order under Schedule 1.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held when dismissing the application of Frank McGrath for

an order of certiorari to quash the order of Judge Lever, QC, made on May 12 at Preston Crown Court pursuant to paragraph 4 of Schedule 1 to the 1984 Act in respect of material at the applicant's home premises.

Mr Michael Supperstone, QC and Mr Daniel Janner for Mr McGrath; Mr Michael Shorrocks, QC and Mr Geoffrey Tattersall, QC, for the prosecution.

LORD JUSTICE MANN said that the reference in paragraph 2(a)(ii) of Schedule 1 to "material which consists of special procedure material or includes special procedure material" was a reference to material which had the legal quality of special procedure material either as to its entirety or as to

some part. The argument that a special procedure order could relate only to material shown to be special procedure material, and material inseparable from it, and not mixed material, was a strained argument whose consequence would be to achieve a situation unintended by Parliament, namely the requirement of separate and necessarily sequential applications under Schedule 1 and section 8 (application to a justice of the peace). That would be cumbersome and would endanger the integrity of the material which was to be the subject of the section 8 application.

Mr Justice Leonard agreed.

Solicitors: John Roberts & Co, Preston; CPS, Headquarters.

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John Appleby explains Law Society doubts about contracting out legal aid

Why we are worried

John Pitts, the chairman of the Legal Aid Board, last week explained his vision of the future for legal aid. It is based on the board entering into contracts with lawyers who can deliver a service of assured quality.

Under the scheme, known as franchising, lawyers concerned would have the benefit of preferential payment terms and delegated powers in return for meeting specified quality criteria in different areas of legal aid work.

Certainly, it is vital to improve the terms on which solicitors do legal aid work. The Law Society has been pressing for improvements for many years, but payment for legal aid work remains too slow, even though private clients are usually expected to pay as they go. That is not entirely the board's fault because the regulations under which it must operate are the Lord Chancellor's responsibility. But if improvements are not made soon, legally aided clients will find fewer competent, experienced solicitors available to deal with their case.

The society is also determined to help solicitors to provide high-quality services to

clients, and to help the public identify solicitors who specialise. That is why we have developed good-practice guides for criminal and civil litigation, and for advising suspects at police stations.

So our commitment to quality is clear. We supported the West Midlands franchising experiment and I hope we shall be able to support the board's new proposals for extending franchising throughout the country. But we have not yet seen the full details. We shall have to be satisfied on several matters, as follows:

● Legal aid clients must remain free to instruct the solicitor of their choice whether or not he or she has a franchise.
● Franchises must be available to all firms that meet the quality criteria. Small firms, including sole practitioners, must not be discriminated against. Nor must there be any limitation on the number of firms that can obtain a franchise in any area.
● There must be additional rewards for franchise holders in recognition of the commitment they will have to make in preparing their firms to apply for a franchise. Prompt pay-



Ken Hyde

ment for legal aid work is vital. Firms providing a guaranteed high-quality service should be entitled to higher levels of payment as well.

● The criteria used to decide whether firms qualify for franchises must themselves be justifiable. That seems obvious, but is in fact quite complex. For example, the board proposes detailed management requirements for firms seeking a franchise, such as a formal system for appraising staff and establishing a marketing strategy. We must be sure such requirements are genuinely necessary to ensure good service to clients.

Is it really impossible for solicitors to do good work for clients unless they have a marketing strategy? A better approach may well be for the society to put together the

work already done — and which Mr Pitts acknowledges — into a management code for solicitors, and to invite the board and other bulk buyers of services to use that, rather than seek to set their own criteria from scratch.

The board also intends to take into account the average cost of the work done by applicants for franchises. The board fears that solicitors with higher than average bills may be inefficient.

However, it is at least likely that these solicitors are providing a thorough and well-prepared service to their clients or that the mix of cases they deal with is more complex than those of their colleagues whose bills are lower.

Every legal aid bill is paid

One of the big questions for solicitors is whether initial professional qualification should be basic and cheap, after which the real skills come through specialist qualifications.

The Law Society has ordered a survey to find out what financial services skills solicitors need. This is because the Securities and Investments Board wants a higher standard of financial advice. It is clear where this is leading. Solicitors giving financial advice will have to have additional qualifications besides investment business certificates. Many will find this frustrating as they see the abysmal advice given by competitors in financial services.

Most advice is given by tied agents of one company who have only superficial training. Why, then, was there no decision from the society at the SIB suggestion that solicitors need more qualifications? The society goes on the defensive when somebody points out that many solicitors are ignorant about specialised areas. Other branches of the profession have more self-confidence. The bar professes to be a corps of specialists without having formal specialist qualifications.

The reason why the society is so postilionistic is the escalating cost of training solicitors. The fall in the real value of student grants for degree courses and the non-availability of grants for the final course combine to make it difficult for anybody from a modest background to qualify as a solicitor.

Before the recession solicitors' firms paid for students to attend the final course. Although a survey by Legal Business showed that partners in the top eight London firms have perfect shares aver-

Steer clear of closed shops

aging more than £315,000 each, the government's New Earnings Survey put average male solicitors' earnings at £32,427. Women solicitors are worse off with a £23,883 average. Most solicitors, therefore, cannot finance a potential employee through law school.

The problem over the cost of training has been appreciated for some time by the society, which has tried to keep the profession open to those of ability regardless of means. The society proposes to change the final to reduce the law content and to concentrate on skills. The new course could be combined with a law degree, making a further year at a separate institution unnecessary.

Caught between the requirements of high standards and cheapness of training, the society is ill able to resist those who demand specialist qualifications. Many of the demands come from those in large firms who would benefit most from certain categories of work being confined to them. Their justification is that generalist solicitors try to do specialist work and harm their clients. This may be true in isolated cases but solicitors already have a professional duty not to take on work

outside their competence. It is up to the Law Society to enforce this duty.

There is to be a specialist Personal Injuries Panel to add to the Child Care Panel. Lee Bridges, in research for the Legal Action Group, has said firms outside an inner group of 300 may carry out criminal legal aid work badly because they do not do enough of it. There is talk of limiting legal aid work to firms that can afford to have a BSI kitemark.

These developments should be resisted. They will drive small firms to merge with bigger ones, forcing up fees. Partners in London firms are now charging on average £344 an hour. A solicitor on average earnings is unlikely to charge more than £100 an hour. The mostly specialist City solicitors have been able to raise their rates by 20 per cent in the past year. Their generalist brethren have had no such luck.

Mergers between firms reduce the public's points of access to the law. Furthermore, specialist panels will inevitably lead to restrictive practices as specialists call for the exclusive right to carry out certain kinds of work.

Adam Smith observed: "People of the same trade seldom meet together, but the conversation ends in a conspiracy against the public, or in some diversion to raise prices", and this applies equally to the professions.

Left to its own devices the legal profession is capable of devising restrictive practices that would be the envy of any print union. This is not in the public interest. Neither is the rush to specialisation.

PATRICK STEVENS
The author is a practising solicitor.

Firms in the front line to influence Europe

The presentation of legal and political arguments to Brussels is a growth activity for lawyers

LOBBYING — or marshalling arguments to present to Brussels — is increasingly important, particularly in matters of competition, intellectual property and information technology. Politicians have distilled the complex arguments into a simple conflict between democracy and bureaucracy. Most lawyers with knowledge of the European Commission, however, say the officials are keener to consult than to pontificate.

European officials are constantly engaged in an exchange of views with lawyers and special interest groups — what Philip Wolston, who runs Theodore God-

dard's Brussels office, described last week as "the essential protection against the democratic deficit" within the EC. In other words, European officials' accessibility helps to remedy shortcomings in European institutions.

Cleary Gottlieb, the American law firm, has one of the best reputations for this in Brussels.

Also strongly rated is Baker & McKenzie, the international law firm with strong American and EC connections. The firm first attracted notice in this area in the mid 1980s when, acting for the UK news industry, it helped to stop a proposal to put VAT on newspapers. Again this month it won the fight to stop a levy on audio-tapes.

"The trouble with some of these issues is that they are never finally resolved," says Michael Hart, a partner and intellectual property specialist, who helped to mastermind this campaign.

Being vigilant in the fight against the levy is what Mr Hart and his colleagues are paid to do. Working alongside Westminster

Strategy, the public affairs lobbyist, they have regular meetings with their clients in the "home taping rights campaign" to plan the next stage in the action.

Although Westminster Strategy co-ordinates the campaign, Mr Hart provides the analysis and critique that give it legal muscle. The technicality of whether the

proposed levy is really a tax, for example, has occupied hours of debate. However, unlike a normal translation or negotiation, this kind of Euro exercise operates on several levels, political and social as well as legal.

The clients' "relationships" can be more complex too. The home taping rights campaign, for exam-

ple, is a rainbow alliance of a range of interests, from the audio-tape manufacturers through to the Consumers' Association, the Royal National Institute for the Blind and the National Union of Teachers, every one of which has its own motives. Mr Hart needs, therefore, to operate antennae extending beyond the legal horizon.

"A lot of lawyers can provide the legal arguments," says Nick DeLuca of Westminster Strategy. "What Baker & McKenzie have done is show that they understand the political nuances as well."

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The Older Candidate
Most vacancies in private practice are for solicitors two to three years qualified. For obvious reasons — training, flexibility, existing hierarchies, and salary expectations — it will always be the younger candidates who are in greatest demand.

In industry there is less of a youth bias. True, the most popular age group is from 27 to 35. On the other hand, we have placed several candidates recently aged 45, 46, 49, and 56 years. Many legal departments are divisionalised or have only one lawyer and can recruit lawyers of any age without worrying about hierarchies. Moreover, long exposure to the commercial/industrial environment is highly valued.

Placing the older candidate in private practice depends very much on the existence of a following. Client connections are the key which opens doors of all kinds in today's market. A 55-year-old solicitor, for instance, who had spent his entire career with a large City firm, was able to join a medium-sized Holborn firm on a consultancy arrangement (with flexible hours to suit) because he had one client he would continue to act for (at lower charge-out rates). Another candidate in similar circumstances chose to move to a firm in the provinces and was also able to negotiate convenient working arrangements.

Older candidates without followings can still find jobs in private practice in special cases. Our Manchester office, for example, has vacancies for senior property lawyers with sufficient experience to service clients demanding an almost instant turn-around of work. (Clients are demanding this, it seems, on the assumption that it reduces fees.)

Michael Chambers

For vacancies in **INDUSTRY & BANKING** ring Sonya Rayner.

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Property: North of England: Loom
Solicitor to join legal dept of well-known organisation. You should have experience of property management, landlord & tenant matters, licences, and property litigation.

PRIVATE PRACTICE: LONDON & PROVINCES

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Property Litigation: Central London
Several firms (small, medium & large) have vacancies for specialist property/L&T litigators, particularly at the 1-3 yr qualified level.

Corporate Partner: City
London office of leading provincial firm with record of recruiting top senior solicitors seeks heavyweight corporate solicitor to develop practice.

Litigation Partners: Central London
A number of firms with surplus work, particularly in the West End, have vacancies for litigators with connections to be developed.

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Intellectual Property: Oxfordshire
Medium-sized firm seeks high-calibre solicitor with strong commercial or IP background.

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OUR CLIENTS are one of the largest and best-known companies in the North of England. They manufacture a wide variety of industrial and consumer products, and have a turnover in excess of £1,000 million a year. They are also known for their high-calibre legal department which handles virtually everything in-house.

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Pips Pride can add to Hannon's fine tally

RICHARD Hannon has an excellent record so far in the Redcar Gold Trophy at Redcar.

He won the inaugural event in 1989 with Orazio before saddling Pips Pride and Fair Crack to finish third in the two subsequent races.

Now the season's leading trainer is four-handed, represented by Son Pardo, Revelation, Pips Pride and Elie Shaped in today's £100,000 feature on the Cleveland track.

My preference is for Pips Pride, the mount of Lanfranco Dettori.

When he won his first two races, at Kempton and Ascot, in the spring, Pips Pride showed that he could handle soft going.

More recently, he has also shown that he possesses the requisite ability by winning the equally valuable group one Heinz 57 Stakes over six furlongs at Leopardstown.

Subsequently, he finished fourth and second in the Mill Reef Stakes and the Middle Park Stakes respectively.

The last effort was particularly praiseworthy since he was beaten only a length by the French colt Zieten, who remains undefeated after four runs.

With only 8st 5lb to carry, Pips Pride must have an outstanding chance if he re-

MICHAEL PHILLIPS

produces that form, and he is my nap.

Splendid and Son Pardo are the other runners in today's 26-strong field who have won a group race this season. Splendid landed the Glimmer Stakes at York in August.

But prior to that, he had finished three-and-a-half lengths behind Pips Pride in Ireland. Since York, Splendid has been beaten in two top-class races in France. Now the task of conceding 9lb to

proves that form, and he is my nap.

Logan's Luck is strongly fancied to win the EBF Maiden Stakes following that eye-catching run at Newmarket behind Falcão.

Finally, Dunsany who beat Ribbi and the subsequent Newmarket winner Abergele at York last time out, is taken to follow up in the Redcar Nursery.

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Pips Pride looks formidable.

Son Pardo's form has rather faded off since he collected the Richmond Stakes at Goodwood. Like Splendid, he too finished behind Pips Pride in Ireland.

Nominator and Star Family Friend have both won listed races, the former at Newmarket and the latter at Ripon.

James Fanshawe, who trained that good filly Chipaya to win this race two years ago, is now relying upon Vayavai and Mithi Al Hawa.

The latter had experience on her side when she finished five lengths ahead of her stable companion at Kempton in September.

Since then, Mithi Al Hawa has been beaten by Rain Brother at York, while Vayavai has come good at Haydock.

Exclusively Yours could prove the pick of the Newmarket runners. She is expected to run a mighty race with Michael Roberts in the saddle.

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Boutin opts for Mile with Arazi

FRANCOIS Boutin settled the Arazi dilemma yesterday and cast his deciding vote in favour of the Breeders' Cup Mile.

The trainer was given the final say after joint-owners, Allen Paulson and Shaikh Mohammed, disagreed over which race their colt should contest at Gulfstream Park, Florida on Saturday.

Arazi was entered in both the Classic, run on dirt over a mile-and-a-quarter, and the Mile, run on grass.

Boutin had registered Arazi's first preference as the \$3 million Classic. Paulson's preferred target, and said he would not be making a final decision until tomorrow.

But he confirmed yesterday the colt would compete in the \$1 million Mile. "I spoke to the owners, considered the options and have decided to definitely go for the Mile," Arazi has been in great form," he said.

Arazi, who won the Prix de la Forêt at Longchamps earlier this month, arrived safely in the United States on Monday night with the rest of the French contingent. He will be released from quarantine to begin his build-up today.

William Hill shortened his Mile odds to 3-1 favourite from 7-2, while Ladbrokes quote him 3-1 joint favourite with Britain's hope, Selkirk.

Ladbrokes cut Rodrigo De Triano to 7-2 from 4-1 for the Classic, behind the 11-4 favourite, Pleasant Tap.

The French filly Jolypha, who in the absence of St Jovite and Arazi needs one more withdrawal to claim a place in the big-race line-up, is 10-1 from 12-1.

The British team left yesterday morning from Stansted Airport for Miami. It included Paul Cole's Classic entrant, Zoman, who has recovered from the slight injury he sustained when winning the Budweiser International.

Alternative approaches to winner-finding

BY RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT

IS PICKING winners an art or a science? Should the punter rely on feel and intuition, or hard facts and figures?

The conundrum was reinforced recently when two of the best annual racing publications landed on my desk.

Timeform's latest *Chasers and Hurdles* and the less well known, but equally valuable, *Computer Chasing Form*, published by Racing Research, are like chalk and cheese.

The Halifax scholars who craft the *Timeform* annuals employ the beauty and breadth of the English language to bring racing alive for the reader. The latest volume maintains the highest traditions of *Timeform*.

Essays detailing the heroics, excitement and courage of top jumpers, not to

mention the likes, dislikes and idiosyncrasies of lesser lights over the sticks, are a joyous winter warmer as the evenings begin to close in. As usual, some of the views expressed are forthright. Notably, about Carvill's Hill.

Individual assessments of more than 7,000 horses, including distance and going requirements, is combined with a rating signifying the merit of a hurdler or chaser.

A single rating for a horse offers a guide in the search for winners, but only a guide. A punter is in the dark as to whether the rating represents the horse's best performance and whether that was a one-off or a reflection of consistency.

Over what distance and what ground were the best runs achieved? In most cases we don't know.

For a detailed breakdown of

a horse's abilities and racing record, stretching back over three seasons, the serious punter must turn to *Computer Chasing Form* from Racing Research.

John Whitley, who set up Racing Research, is a former *Timeform* man who helped Phil Bull update the process for calculating time figures. He has developed his ideas and his unique computer-handicapping system produces a goldmine of statistics.

The volume is crammed with line-by-line analysis of races, containing up to 15 different facts and figures. Apart from offering race-by-race form ratings, Whitley also provides time figures for jumpers and performance figures for jockeys — Peter Scudamore and Richard Dunwoody are not in the top six.

While *Timeform* states the

Champion Hurdle won last season by Royal Gait was a sub-standard one, and Granville Agass's Scottish Champion Hurdle success was almost certainly his best run. Whitley's volume offers more precise analysis.

The performance of Martin Pipe's hurdler at Ayr was a 10lb improvement on his best previous run — and a full 16lb better than Royal Gait's Champion show.

All of which brings us back to the original question. The answer is probably a bit of both — plus Lady Luck.

Chasers and Hurdles 1991/92 (Timeform, Portway Press, Halifax, West Yorkshire HX1 1XZ) 16s.

Computer Chasing Form (Racing Research, 22 Upper Green Lane, Hove, Edge Brighouse, West Yorkshire HD16 2NZ) 64s.

LEICESTER

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BBC1

- 6.00 Ceebe (58755) 6.30 Breakfast News (2752195)
9.05 K9: Topical discussion (5752224) 9.45 Boss King (5855060)
10.00 News and weather (1653073) 10.05 Playdays (5) (7117263)
10.30 Good Morning... with Anne and Nick. Weekday family magazine series (7755024)
12.15 Pebble Mili. Just Spier's guest is actress Maureen Lipman (5)
12.30 Regional News and weather (53331824)
1.00 One O'Clock News with Philip Hays (5) (585334)
1.30 Neighbours. (Ceebe) (5) (585334) 1.50 Going For Gold. General knowledge quiz. The question-master is the debonair Henry Kelly (5) (58542027)
2.15 Racing From Redcar. Live coverage of the 2.30, 3.00 and 3.30 races (5) (712627)
3.50 Marmalade. Picture stories (5) (2333553) 4.00 Funnies. Animation (5) (2333553) 4.05 Spinnaway. Science fiction comedy series (2333553) 4.20 The Chipmunks (5) (2333553) 4.35 Heartbeat. Better picture making. (Ceebe) (5) (704737)
5.00 Newsround (585244) 5.10 Byker Grove. (Ceebe) (2247319) 5.35 Neighbours (5) (585334) 5.40 The Big Breakfast (5) (585334) 5.50 Six O'Clock News with Anna Ford and Chris Lowe. (Ceebe) (5) (585334) 6.00 Regional News Magazine (178). Northern Ireland: Neighbours. 7.00 Telly Addicts. Television trivia quiz show (5) (585334) 7.30 Eastenders. (Ceebe) (5) (585334) 8.00 Citizen Smith. John Sullivan's classic comedy series starring Robert Lindsay (5) (585334) 8.30 A Question of Sport. The start of the 29th year of the popular quiz game presented by David Coleman. Ian Botham's team is Stuart Pearce and Chris Boardman. Bill Beaumont is supported by Chris Lewis and Tessa Sanderson. (Ceebe) (5) (7027)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Martin Lewis. (Ceebe) (5) (585334) 9.30 Chives. The concluding episode of Lynda La Plante's drama series. (Ceebe) (5) (705334) 10.00 Chives. (Ceebe) (5) (705334) 10.05 Omnibus: Avigdor Arish. CHOICE: The painter Avigdor Arish, German-Romanian by birth, largely by upbringing and long based in Paris, proves an admirable subject for an Omnibus profile. The life has been eventful, including a spell in a Nazi concentration camp as a boy and five years on a kibbutz in what used to be Palestine. The artistic career has moved from abstracts to painting from life, with an eight-year gap when he painted nothing and immersed himself in the work of other artists. His knowledge of art history enables him to talk illuminatingly about such influences as Mondrian and Cézanne. He offers a memoir of Samuel Beckett and persuades Henri Cartier-Bresson to make a rare television appearance. Arish is modest and unpretentious and old-fashioned enough to believe that art should first of all delight the eye. (Ceebe) (5) (480373). Northern Ireland: Go For It 10.55 Country Time. Wales: 10.55 Omnibus



Mother's boy: motel proprietor Anthony Perkins (11.15pm)

- 11.15 Film: Psycho (1960, b/w). CHOICE: Alfred Hitchcock insisted that Psycho should be taken with tongue in cheek, though a story based on the brutal slaying of a woman in a shower seems hardly a laughing matter. Yet there is an element of playfulness about the film, in the use of horror clichés such as the old dark house and in the hokey device of wheeling on a psychiatrist to explain the killer's mind. All the same Psycho is more frightening than funny and even with several viewings it retains its power to shock. Above all it is a superb piece of filmmaking, which constantly manipulates and tenses the audience. Even the shower scene is a tease, since the violence is implied and never shown. For newcomers to the plot, Janet Leigh checks in at a motel and wishes she hadn't, and the late Anthony Perkins plays an odd cove with a mother fixation. (Ceebe) (120447). Northern Ireland: 11.20 Omnibus 12.10-1.55 Film: Psycho; Wales: 11.45 Film: Psycho 1.30 News and weather 1.00pm Business Club. Scrambled. (712833). Ends at 3.15

BBC2

- 6.00 Breakfast News (4891553)
8.15 Westminster. A round-up of business from both Houses (185282)
9.00 Holiday Outings. Eamonn Holmes takes a caravan holiday at Haggaston Castle on Northumberland's Heritage Coast (5) (2653973)
9.00 Daytime On Two. Educational programmes
9.00 News and weather followed by You and Me. For infants (5) (23710621) 2.15 Canvas. A discussion on the celebrated owl was painted by W.F. Yeames And When Did You Last See Your Father? (5) (3254447) 2.30 See Hear! Muggabe's satirical radio hearing impaired. Includes Jack Ashley on what is being planned for television during Deaf Awareness Week (5) (737)
3.00 News and weather (5813805) 3.05 Westminster Live. John Cole and Ian Macwhirter introduce coverage of prime minister's questions (7213447) 3.50 News (Ceebe), regional news and weather (2301195)
4.00 Catchword. Paul Cole with another round of the computer word game (5) (315)
4.30 World Soccer Championship. Highlights from the final rounds of last year's event, introduced by Alan Coren (5) (973)
5.00 Play Snooker. The first of six masterclasses given by former world champion Dennis Taylor (5) (8559)
5.30 Film 52 With Barry Norman. Among the film's reviews are Gregory Gyllenhaal, Unlawful Entry and Mon Père Ce Héros (5) (553)
6.00 Food and Drink presented by Chris Kelly, Michael Barry, Jill Goodwin and Ch. Clarke. Includes an investigation into the claim that eating red meat leads to colon cancer; a recipe for a spicy chicken curry with a Thai influence; and a look at the reasons why some wines improve with age while others are best drunk when young (5) (468)
6.30 Animation Now. To Be, the story of an eccentric professor who invents a machine for duplicating people (585334)
6.40 Assignment: Westminster. The Storm. Early Buchanan tours Zimbabwe with President Mugabe as the country is in the throes of the worst drought for 100 years and the economy in ruins (572350)



Conducting his birthday celebration: George Solt (7.25pm)

- 7.25 Otello. From the Royal Opera House, James Naughtie introduces a special live performance of Verdi's opera to celebrate the conductor Sir George Solt's eightieth birthday. In the presence of the Prince and Princess of Wales, Plácido Domingo sings the title role with Kin Te Kanawa as Desdemona and Sergiu Celibidache making his debut in the role of Iago. In Italian with English subtitles. The event is in aid of the Musicians' Benevolent Fund and the Royal Opera House Trust. During the interval, between 8.40 and 9.10 Sir George Solt talks to James Naughtie about his long and distinguished career (7858805)
NB: As the opera is live the following programme times may be subject to change
10.30 Newsnight with Sue Cameron (91024)
11.15 The Late Show. Arts and media magazine (5) (613868)
11.55 Live at Brecon. Series of highlights from this year's Brecon Jazz Festival. Tonight former Ellington trumpeter Clark Terry leads an all-star line-up (238666)
12.35am Weather (575664)

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ITV LONDON

- 6.00 TV-am (5507602)
9.25 Keynotes. Music game show hosted by Alistair Duffell (1519621)
9.55 Thames News (728911)
10.00 The Time... The Place... Topical discussion series (8433911)
10.35 This Morning. Magazine series (26292911)
12.10 Playbox. Early learning series (5) (767244)
12.30 Lunchtime News. (Ceebe) (585334) 1.05 Thames News (58106224)
1.15 Home and Away. Australian family drama series (585334) 1.45 A Country Practice. Medical drama series (585334) 2.15 Hairroom. The first of a new series of the antiques show, presented by John Bly. This week's guest: value is porcelain expert Henry Sandon (409756) 2.45 Families (5) (6132176)
3.10 ITN News headlines (5824911) 3.15 Thames News headlines (5824911) 3.20 The Young Doctors (4523447)
3.50 People's Rock. Puppet series (5) (534927) 4.05 The Raggy Dolls (5) (244447) 4.15 Told one with T-Bag. Drama series starring Georgina Hale (1773253) 4.40 Children's Ward. Episode three of a ten-part drama set in a general hospital. (Ceebe) (5) (333191)
5.40 Early Evening News. (Ceebe) (585334) 5.55 Thames News (5) (585334) 6.00 Home and Away (5) (585334) 6.30 Emmerdale. Soap set in the Yorkshire Dales. (Ceebe) (7640)
7.30 Cook Report Special. Roger Cook, in Yugoslavia, accuses a paramilitary leader of committing atrocities (755)
8.00 The Bill. Reasonable grounds. A well-known burglar provides the Sun Hill force with the link between a missing seven-year-old and a man who keeps running away from officers for no apparent reason. (Ceebe) (3065)



Blind date: Brooke-Taylor, McGann and Weston (6.30pm)

- 8.30 The Upper Hand. Comedy series about a footballer-turned-housekeeper to a businessman. Starring Joe McGann, Diana Whelan, Honor Blackman and, this week Tim Brooke-Taylor (5) (2195)
9.00 Boom. Comedy drama series starring Michael Elphick as a Midlands-based private detective. Tonight he and his partner Harry (David Daker) are given the job of guarding a supposedly haunted manor house. (Ceebe) (5) (7621)
10.00 News at Ten. (Ceebe) (585334) 10.30 Thames News (585334)
10.40 The Kennedys: We Are All Mortal. CHOICE: The third instalment of the Kennedy saga covers the presidency of Jack from the Bay of Pigs invasion to assassination in Dallas. As before, the programme is a skilful blend of archive film and interviews, fluently edited and consistently watchable. That being said much of the material is familiar and the judgment is the conventional one that the Kennedy presidency was stronger on style than substance. Kennedy may have done well to subordinate himself from the Cuban missile crisis, which was largely of his own making, but he prevaricated on civil rights and did much to plunge the United States into the morass of Vietnam. On most of the big issues the more impressive figure seems to have been brother Bobby. As to JFK's womanising, an aide is admirably pithy: "In that family there was no tradition of monogamy." (Ceebe) (32973)
11.40 Prisoner Cell Block H. Australian women-behind-bars drama series (585334)
12.30am Video View. A Halloween special (585334)
1.30 The Equalizer. McCall helps a psychic whose visions of a serial killer includes herself as one of the victims (84400)
2.30 Donahue. Phil Donahue's guests are women who have dumped their husbands and lived to regret it (5852521)
3.30 60 Minutes. American news magazine (7649816)
4.10 The Twilight Zone. Horror. A tale of the supernatural starring Eric Bogosian and Vincent Gardenia (2)
4.40 Short Story Theatre. Luke Was There. A photo boy, feeling sorry for himself, drifts into a life of crime. Starring Scott Bakula (5) (3065995)
5.30 ITN Morning News (6157). Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 Cartoons (22486)
7.00 The Big Breakfast presented by Chris Evans and Gaby Roslin (21535)
9.00 You Bet Your Life. American game show presented by Bill Cosby (5) (26485)
9.30 Schools (567398)
12.00 The Parliament Programme. Anne Perkins with news from both Houses (83381)
12.30 Sesame Street. Pre-school learning series (34718)
1.30 Take 5. Children's entertainment (585334)
2.00 Film: Conquering X (1940, b/w) starring Clark Gable and Hedy Lamarr. Salacious romantic comedy about an American newspaperman who is blackmailed by a Russian traitor driver to smuggle his daughter out of the country — against her will. Directed by King Vidor (250468)
3.40 The Three Stooges in No Censur, No Feeling (1940, b/w) (58542027)
4.00 Family Pride. Soap about a Midlands-based Asian family (5) (485)
4.30 Fifteen To One. Fast-moving knock-out general knowledge quiz game presented by William G. Stewart (668)
5.00 Crawshaw Paints Olla. In the first of a new eight-part series in which Alwyn Crawshaw, in the West Country, introduces viewers to painting in oils (2718)
5.30 If Wishes Were Horses. The second in the series follows the young equestrians as they learn how to lunge — with varying degrees of success (5) (621)
6.00 Remote Control. Comedy quiz show presented by Anthony H. Wilson. (Teletext) (534)
6.30 Roseanne. Wacky humour from Roseanne Arnold and John Goodman (5) (114)
7.00 Channel 4 News. (Teletext) (209404)
7.50 Comment. Nigel Sivory bemoans the fact that swear words are becoming acceptable in the media (211468)
8.00 Follow That Tiger. A Survival documentary following two men's efforts to ensure the survival of one of the last remaining tigers in Nepal's Chitwan National Park. (Teletext) (1802)
8.30 Show Down at Glastonbury. The first of a four-part series about life in the village of Pilton where every year local farmer Michael Eavis plays host to the Glastonbury Festival which attracts 100,000
9.00 Without Walls. CHOICE: The American writer Howard Schuman's attempt to establish the homosexuality of D.H. Lawrence has greater justification than similar exercises performed in this slot on Shakespeare and Michelangelo. For one thing the evidence is more plausible, for another the presence of at least a homosexual strain in Lawrence may be a fuller appreciation of his work. The recent release of an unexpurgated edition of Women in Love is the cue for a wide-ranging debate to which a surprising contributor is Quentin Crisp. None of which would appear to have the slightest connection with the other Without Walls item, a celebration of the E-Type Jaguar. On the contrary, the car is praised both as a witty symbol and for its sleek and graceful femininity. Like D.H. Lawrence, if you believe Schuman, the E-Type is bisexual (5283)



No deal: jazz club owner Sting refuses to vacate (10.00pm)

- 10.00 Film on Four: Stormy Monday (1988) starring Melanie Griffith, Sting and Sean Bean. Stylish romantic thriller set on Tyneside where an American businessman tries to muscle in on the premises of a jazz club in order to make a fortune in a lucrative property deal. Directed by Mike Figgis. (Ceebe) (5) (514640)
11.40 Four Nations: Sound. Three short animations — The Sandman, Pink Kommander and Begone Dull Care (228282)
12.20am The Two Lives Of Mattia Pascal. The final episode of the Italian drama starring Marcello Mastroianni. English subtitles (111011)
1.35 Film: The Brain Machine (1955, b/w) starring Elizabeth Allen and Maxwell Reed. B-movie thriller about a psychiatrist who is kidnapped by an animal killer. Directed by Ken Hughes (555615). Ends at 3.05

VARIATIONS

- ANGLIA**
As London except 6.25-7.00 Anglia News (437553)
BORDER
As London except 3.50-5.30 News and weather (585334) 5.30-5.50 News and weather (585334) 5.50-6.00 News and weather (585334) 6.00-6.30 News and weather (585334) 6.30-6.50 News and weather (585334) 6.50-7.00 News and weather (585334) 7.00-7.30 News and weather (585334) 7.30-7.50 News and weather (585334) 7.50-8.00 News and weather (585334) 8.00-8.30 News and weather (585334) 8.30-8.50 News and weather (585334) 8.50-9.00 News and weather (585334) 9.00-9.30 News and weather (585334) 9.30-9.50 News and weather (585334) 9.50-10.00 News and weather (585334) 10.00-10.30 News and weather (585334) 10.30-10.50 News and weather (585334) 10.50-11.00 News and weather (585334) 11.00-11.30 News and weather (585334) 11.30-11.50 News and weather (585334) 11.50-12.00 News and weather (585334) 12.00-12.30 News and weather (585334) 12.30-12.50 News and weather (585334) 12.50-1.00 News and weather (585334) 1.00-1.30 News and weather (585334) 1.30-1.50 News and weather (585334) 1.50-2.00 News and weather 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PRACTICE MAKES
PERFECT FOR
JIMMY WHITE

SPORT

TUESDAY OCTOBER 27 1992

ENGLAND TAKE
CAUTIOUS
APPROACH

ANC backs protest over township failures

S Africa's rugby tours threatened by loss of support

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

RUGBY union's uneasy relationship with South Africa, heightened over the decade of isolation, has returned to haunt it. Just when South Africa has re-entered international sport on so many fronts, a potent threat to present and future rugby tours — and ultimately to the 1995 World Cup — emerged yesterday.

The African National Congress (ANC), the power-broker in supporting South Africa's re-entry over the past year to cricket, athletics, football, as well as rugby union, came out in support of the stand taken on Sunday by the National and Olympic Sports Congress (NOSC). Mkhisi George, the NOSC president, said his organisation withdrew support from all rugby tours to and from South Africa, and from the World Cup.

South African rugby's failure to implement development schemes in the townships had made it necessary to introduce a "correctional measure", George said yesterday. Speaking at the official welcome to the Indian cricket party in Johannesburg, George said he would disclose more at the United Nations' special commission on apartheid in New York later this week. In contrast to cricket, the South African rugby authorities, he alleged, had failed to keep their promises.

"We have waited and given them their chance but so far nothing has still happened." He said the non-white game was dying in the Cape, where once it had been so strong. Another fault was that they still used symbols associated

with apartheid, such as the Springbok.

George's statements, combined with ANC support, open the way for political protest on the present South African rugby tour of France and England. The team has two more matches to play in France this week, in Tours and Lille, before arriving on Sunday in England.

Even though Rugby Football Union (RFU) officials, who have been in frequent contact with the London mission of the ANC, played down the threat, they must be concerned. "We have had no official notification of any change in support," Dudley Wood, the RFU secretary, said yesterday. It is South Africa's first tour of England in 22 years.

Jacky Abrahams, the South Africans' assistant tour manager, said in Tours yesterday: "I am torn between my people and rugby... I believe that rugby is genuinely making efforts to unite and all these are the pains of unity. From a rugby point of view I believe the tour to England must go on. At the same time, I hope that the development programmes in the poor areas, black and coloured, will be brought forward."

The failure of the multi-racial South African Rugby Football Union (SARFU), not yet a year old, to create an instant development programme for township rugby has sparked the NOSC statement, although George left the door ajar. "We are not unreasonable," he said. "SARFU must be seen to be

involved in a vibrant development programme."

Steve Tshwete, the ANC sports spokesman, said: "Our standpoint is to rally behind the NOSC. They are close to the situation and they are expressing the gut feeling of black rugby enthusiasts. We know promises were made and not a single one of them honoured by the SARFU."

Yesterday, however, the SARFU produced a hard-hitting response, denying that it had given priority to international tours at the expense of development programmes. "We are not prepared to indulge in a cosmetic development programme just to please any individual who wishes to capitalise politically therefrom," a statement from Cape Town said.

"NOSC's withdrawal of its support of the current rugby tour to France and England, and of the 1995 Rugby World Cup, is a blatant breaking of its word."

SARFU emphasised that the tours so far arranged had raised money for development. Income from gates and television had permitted it to set aside more than six million rand (about £1.25 million) for the purpose and it had set about restructuring domestic competitions for 1993.

SARFU has appointed its own development officer but his difficulty lies in placing a programme across the whole country: in the Western Province and Cape areas there is widespread enthusiasm for rugby among the coloured population, and a township club, Lagunya, was due to tour in Wales next month before finding that the necessary funds were not available. Inland the greater enthusiasm is for football and boxing.

The latest polemical round must discourage the International Rugby Football Board, which awarded the 1995 World Cup to South Africa earlier this year. Keith Rowlands, the IRFB secretary, said: "We would be concerned at any statement that would affect the location of the 1995 World Cup and we will be considering the issue of location on an ongoing basis every six months."

Indians welcomed, page 36
England wary, page 38

England tour opposed

By PETER BILLS

ANTI-APARTHEID officials in London last night called on the Rugby Football Union (RFU) to cancel the South African rugby tour due to start at Leicester next week.

Mike Terry, secretary of the Anti-apartheid Movement, said that if the tour proceeded he expected some form of official protest before the England-South Africa match at Twickenham on November 14. "We would like to see the government and the Rugby Union act decisively to call off this tour," Terry said.

"The British government were quick to follow the ANC's appeal when it came to cricket. I hope they will be as quick to listen to what the ANC has to say now on rugby and stop the tour going ahead."

"We feel the tour would do irreparable harm. It is clear that rugby in South Africa is just exploiting this situation simply for international tours. This is being presented as a return of the Springboks and in current circumstances it [the tour] is in clear breach of the Gleneagles Agreement."

Peter Hain, the Labour MP for South, said: "I will support a campaign against the tour. I am also concerned about the fact that President de Klerk intends to be at Twickenham. I find that outrageously provocative given the way his government is behaving."



Treasure trove: Lord Burghersh watches over (left to right): Back row: Woodmen of Arden Silver Arrow (archery); Queen's Cup (rowing); Whitbread round the world trophy (sailing); Wimbledon men's singles trophy; Renshaw Cup (tennis); marble eagle (Hiller's prize swimming); Hales Trophy. Front row: Wimbledon women's singles winner's plate; Lonsdale belt (boxing)

Wealth of glittering sporting prizes

Andrew Longmore views the splendours
in store for visitors to an exhibition
of sporting trophies that opens in London

AN IDEA, sparked three years ago by the photograph of a small boy and a trophy, will reach full flame next month in the biggest exhibition of sporting silverware in the world. Called Sporting Glory, the exhibition, which will run for three months from November 11 at the Victoria and Albert Museum, will feature 500 national trophies begged and borrowed from national federations and associations, from private collections and from the mantelpieces of champions who have long since forgotten their day of triumph.

From the biggest, the eight-foot high Eglinton Trophy for jousting, to the smallest, the Ashes urn; from the oldest, a shooting trophy dating back to 1587, to the newest, the cup which will be presented to the winner of next year's King

George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes; from the famous silver plate presented to the women's singles champion at Wimbledon to the Woolwich District Elementary Schools FA challenge shield, made of tin, each trophy has a story to tell worth far more in sum than the £10 million estimated by the insurers.

"The idea came from a dozen photographs of an exhibition of national sporting trophies held in 1933," Lord Burghersh, the chairman of the exhibition's organising committee and a one-time member of Great

Britain's bobsleigh team, said.

"There was a picture of a small boy looking at a huge trophy. He had a glimmer in his eye and I thought: 'Well, maybe he will be inspired to win something in the future. That's where it all began.'"

With the sponsorship of Courage, among others, Burghersh put together a team of ten to collect and sift through 2,000 trophies. The most prized trophy and the most ancient trophy was selected from each sport, but further research produced plenty of individual gems. There was no finer nor

more striking find than the lifetime eagle, made of black marble, which was specially commissioned by Adolf Hitler to celebrate the anticipated triumph of a German 100-metre backstroke swimmer at the 1934 European championships in Magdeburg, but won by John Bedford, from Newcastle.

The Ashes urn has been allowed out of the MCC museum for only the second time in history, the Hales Trophy for the Blue Riband of the Atlantic, presented by Harold Hales MP in 1835 for the fastest transatlantic crossing, has travelled from the United States.

The Jules Rimet Trophy, won by England in 1966, is going to be on display, too, alongside the FA Cup, the Calcutta Cup, the Pinesapple Cup for rowing, the Arthur

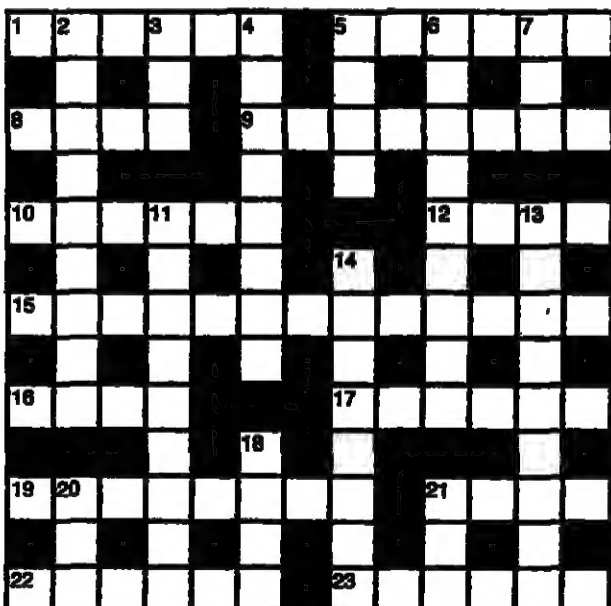
Dunn Cup for old boys' football and the House Cup for the inter-house field games at Eton.

"Seeing them all makes me wish that I had buckled down to do some serious sport myself," Lord Burghersh said.

The display is designed to inspire and to educate. "We didn't want just to put up a row of trophies, so we have split them up into various stories and are using sound and light to create atmosphere," Burghersh said.

One trophy, a boxing belt won by one Digger Stanley, has so far eluded all detective work, but he hopes that the exhibition itself will lead to the discovery of other long lost trophies and, just perhaps, put a champion's ghost into the eye of another small child.

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 2929



ACROSS

- 1 Chest (3,3)
- 5 Feel indignant at (6)
- 6 Breeding stables (4)
- 9 Revive (8)
- 10 Criminals (6)
- 12 Engrave (4)
- 15 Heartlessly (11)
- 16 Nil (4)
- 17 Help (6)
- 19 Shock (8)
- 21 Incurable (4)
- 22 Little cakes (6)
- 23 Strapping (6)

DOWN

- 2 Place between (9)
- 3 Unusual (3)
- 4 Emergency clearance (4,4)
- 5 Shake (4)
- 6 Barefaced (9)
- 7 Scold (3)
- 11 Casual repairer (3,3,3)
- 13 Radio ham identifiers (4,5)
- 14 Slave (8)
- 18 Unfortunately (4)
- 20 Motorist's body (1,1,1)
- 21 Male swan (3)

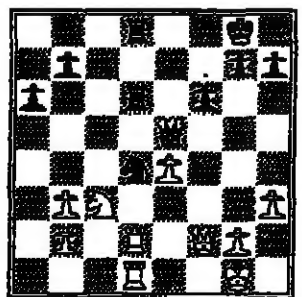
SOLUTIONS TO NO 2928

ACROSS: 1 Pain in the neck 8 Otter 9 Bravado 10 Ado 11 Organ 12 Omelette 14 Tempest 20 Occiput 23 Annie 24 Yes 25 Amalgam 26 Thumb 27 Effervescence
DOWN: 1 Proportionate 2 Tanager 3 In range 4 Tobacco 5 Exact 6 Ewde 7 Knowledgeable 13 Mum 15 Mol 17 Elastic 18 Penguin 19 Symic 21 Chaff 22 Pager

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

This position is from the game Delplank — Pardon, Belgium 1976. The juxtaposition of the pairs of rooks on the d-file gives rise to combinatorial possibilities. Black to play.



Solution below.

Solution: a winning attack down the d-file was unmasked with an ... Nf3! 2 g3! Qe5+ and black wins rook for knight with an ...

CROSSWORD ENTHUSIASTS: For mail order details of all Times Crossword Books and The Times Computer Crossword software for beginners or experts, (runs on most PCs), telephone Alcom Ltd on 081 852 4575 (24 hours) or call CDS Doncaster on 0302 890 000. Postage free until Christmas (applies UK only).

Roeder given task of reviving Gillingham

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

GLENN Roeder dropped the idea of becoming Paul Gascoigne's Italian minder in the hope of pursuing a career in management this summer and the gamble paid dividends yesterday when Roeder, 36, was appointed manager of third division team, Gillingham.

Presently propping up the League, Gillingham, who dismissed Damien Richardson two weeks ago, represent a real challenge for the former Queens Park Rangers, Newcastle United, Watford and Leyton Orient defender.

Ian Atkins, the Birmingham City assistant manager and former Birmingham, Sunderland, Everton and Ipswich Town defender, is favourite to replace John Beck, who was dismissed last week, in charge of Cambridge United.

But Terry Butcher, attempting to revive his playing career at Sunderland, and Kevin Ratcliffe, the Everton central defender, are also understood to be interested.

Officials from the Football League and Professional Footballers' Association were locked in talks with Stan Flashman, the Barnet chairman, and Barry Fry, the third division club's manager, last night.

The meeting, which began yesterday afternoon, had been convened in an attempt to resolve the method in which the Barnet players are paid, a subject which has been a source of discord at Underhill.

Oldham will be without Ian

Swindon host entertainers

By LOUISE TAYLOR

IF THERE was an award for football's entertainer of the year Swindon Town and Oldham Athletic would be strong contenders. They meet at the County Ground in tonight's outstanding Coca-Cola Cup third round fixture which pits two of England's most creative managers against each other.

Yet while Glenn Hoddle, the player-manager of Swindon, of the first division, and Joe Royle, in charge of Oldham, of the Premier League, have much in common they also differ in several respects.

Adhering to the philosophy that attack is the best form of defence, Royle's frequently cavalier Oldham sometimes operate with only three defenders, while Hoddle prefers to build patiently from a five man backline built on his trademark sweeper system.

Oldham will be without Ian

Olney, their record £700,000 striker and have doubts about the fitness of Gunnar Halle, their Norwegian international full back.

Two more of the country's brightest young managers meet at Sheffield Wednesday where Trevor Francis faces Brian Little and Leicester City. Mark Bright, with five goals in his last six matches, plays in the Wednesday attack against the side with whom he began his career. With Warhurst ruled out and Hirst, Jenson and Watson, all doubtful, Francis could swap his manager's suit for a Wednesday strip and start his first match since September.

Portsmouth, FA Cup semi-finalists last spring, aim to see off Ipswich Town, of the Premier League, on what promises to be an entertaining evening at Fratton Park. One

of the more interesting duels on the south coast could be that between Phil Whelan, Ipswich's central defender and an accountancy student at the University of East Anglia, and Guy Whittingham, the Portsmouth centre half who bought himself out of the army and has scored 16 goals this season.

The greatest potential for giant-killing bearing in mind that, in this round, ties are reduced from two-legs to a one-off match — is at Gigg Lane where Bury, of the third division, aim to shake up Queens Park Rangers.

Leeds United, who face Rangers at Elland Road in the European Cup next week, aim to collect their first clean sheet of the season, at Scunthorpe United in a delayed second round fixture which Leeds lead 4-1 from the first leg.

Jeffes claims second place

FROM BARRY PICKTHALL IN RIO DE JANEIRO

PAUL Jeffes and his Interspray crew sailed into Rio de Janeiro in the early hours yesterday to take second place overall on the first stage of the British Steel Challenge from Southampton.

Finishing ten hours behind Richard Tudor's British Steel II, Jeffes said: "It has been a fantastic race and at times we were even in sight of each other. We took the lead off Lisbon and held it until close to the equator and then fought back to within 20 miles of British Steel off Recife."

"But then we hit a brick wall twice on the run down the coast. One day we averaged only four-and-a-half knots and six knots on another and it was then that the British Steel crew pulled 90 miles ahead."

With the third-placed yacht, Heath Insured, expected late last night, both Jeffes and Tudor commended the closeness of this race. "Having the positions of all the yachts every 12 hours made the race much more interesting. It became a

global chess game," Jeffes said. Both skippers had some scathing words to say about the weather fax equipment, which failed to work on any of the yachts. "The pictures were unusable," Tudor said. "Instead, we based all our tactical decisions on the information sent to us over the satellite link from race headquarters."

Chay Blyth, the race chairman, yesterday refused requests from one sponsor to have the results of this first leg made null and void because of these failures.

"That's not possible," he said. "This is a test of human initiative. Dealing with equipment, functioning or not, is an integral part of the challenge. It is unfortunate that this equipment has not lived up to expectations and we will be replacing it all before the next leg."

One crewman thankful for finishing with all his equipment almost intact was Rob Haine. He lost the tip of his

thumb while releasing British Steel's spinnaker shortly before crossing the equator.

"I was tying a bowline and had my thumb inside the knot just as the load came on," he said. "Two seconds either way and I would have been OK."

His skipper, Richard Tudor, said: "He was very lucky not to lose the whole of his thumb. The two medics on board gave him immediate first aid and we had advice over the radio from the doctors within the fleet. Later, we found the tip of his thumb still embedded in the knot and had a little ceremony before burying it at sea."

RESULTS: Stage one (Southampton to Rio de Janeiro): 1. British Steel II (P. Tudor), 29 days 23 hours; 2. Interspray (P. Jeffes), 29 days 12 hours; 3. Heath Insured (A. Doran), 32 days 4 hours; 4. Group 4 Securities (M. Goring), 35 days 5 hours; 5. Hobson Leger (P. Goss), 37 days 11 hours; 6. Puma of Tyneside (J. Macdonald), 37 days 11 hours; 7. Nuclear Electric (J. O'Brien), 38 days 11 hours; 8. Puma of Tyneside (J. O'Brien), 38 days 11 hours; 9. Puma of Tyneside (J. O'Brien), 38 days 11 hours; 10. Commercial Union (W. Sullivan), 38 days 11 hours. Results compiled by BT.

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